LIFESTYLE/ D2

KC: There's one star shining brightest of all in our celebritysphere

METRO / A21

Revamp of Metro Manila police chiefs takes effect today

BUSINESS / B1

Gov't to earn P1.9B from sale of 1.2-ha lot in Global City

NEWS / A2

Malaysia's ex-deputy PM seeks freedom for Erap, says he's a true friend

Education revolution plotted in Makati

By Tarra Quismundo

AMID TALK OF A FRESH COUP D'ETAT plot, a revolution is raging quietly in a posh village in the nation's business capital.

Wielding ideas and feelings of optimism, leaders of the 57-75 Movement met yester-

EDUCATION/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, September 21, 2007 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 285 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

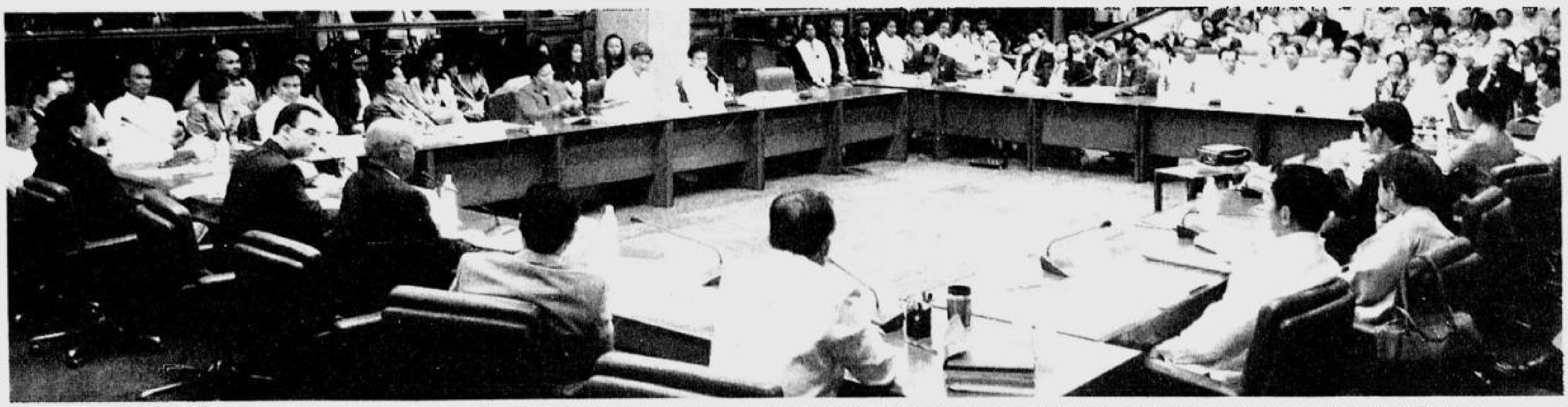
25th year of 'smiley face' emotional icon celebrated

HAPPY SMILEY ANNIVERSARY!

PITTSBURGH—IT was a serious contribution to the electronic lexicon. :-)

Twenty-five years ago, according to the claim of Carnegie Mellon University

25TH YEAR A10



ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN, 15-strong led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita file into the Senate session hall, surprising the 18 senators—chairs and members of the Senate committees on blue ribbon, trade and defense—who are probing the National Broadband Network deal. President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the officials to attend after the first hearing last Tuesday was snubbed by the Palace. *(More photos on Page A16.)* EDWIN BACASMAS

Speaker tied to son's bid

Mendoza claims JDV lobbied hard for AHI

JDV: Between the devil and deep blue sea. INQUIRER PHOTO

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Dona Pazzibugan

TURNING THE TABLES on Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday said it was the businessman's father who aggressively lobbied for his son's firm to bag the contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

Asked by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago if he was approached by any government official or politician regarding the NBN project, Mendoza said Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. was the one who invited him for breakfast to the latter's house where he introduced his son and namesake.

During the meeting, Mendoza said he and the Speaker discussed a lot of issues, including the offer of Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) for the NBN project.

The younger De Venecia is the founder of AHI, which submitted an unsolicited proposal to undertake the NBN project.

In an interview with the INQUIRER following the hearing that ended at 9 p.m., Mendoza said: "He (the Speaker) was asking me to help Joey's project. He said this would be at no cost to the government."

MENDOZA/ A18

Speaker now accused of cornering contracts

By Christian V. Esguerra

REP. LUIS VILLAFUERTE YESTERDAY raised the possibility that Speaker Jose de Venecia used his influence to corner deals with the government for his private companies in violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Villafuerte said the Speaker should now disclose transactions of his private companies in view of the failed bid of his son, Jose de Venecia III, to set up a National Broadband Network for the government and his rev-

SPEAKER/ A18

SITTING PRETTY: The President's day focuses on the "exciting" state of RP's economy as Ms Arroyo keynotes the conference on Mobilizing Aid for Trade in Asia and the Pacific at ADB headquarters in Mandaluyong. AP

The question is: Contract or executive agreement?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Riza T. Olchondra

IS THE BROADBAND NETWORK supply deal entered into by the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and China's ZTE Corp. a contract or an executive agreement?

Government officials fumbled in explaining to senators the status of the supply contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project signed in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Hainan, China, on April 21.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the supply contract was not covered under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9184, which requires a bidding for government projects, because it was an executive agreement and a government-to-government deal.

"It's a contract under an executive agreement. It's conditional," said Mendoza.

But Sen. Panfilo Lacson ques-

THE QUESTION/ A17

MAN IN HOT SEAT, DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza and the man who put him there, Jose de Venecia III, at the Senate during the second day of the hearing on the increasingly scandalous NBN deal. BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

GMA men swamp Senate; Mendoza clueless

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRACTICALLY ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN came to the Senate yesterday to defend the $329-million NBN deal with China after President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband was linked to the controversial contract.

On Tuesday, Jose de Venecia III, the head of a company that lost out on the contract, told the Senate it was overpriced by at least $130 million to facilitate kickbacks for senior government officials.

The son of Speaker Jose de Venecia also said Jose Miguel Arroyo had told him to "back off" from the deal.

Led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, 15 Cabinet officials showed up at the Senate session hall and stayed through the nearly seven-hour inquiry held jointly by the Senate committees on blue ribbon, trade and defense.

"We have the whole government represented here, which leads me to wonder what is so marvelous about this transaction that the entire government has come into this hall," said a grinning Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the trade committee.

Under the full glare of the Senate inquiry, Transportation and Communications Sec-

GMA MEN/ A17

Before 'Rolex 12,' there was 'Omega 5'

By Inquirer Research and Fe Zamora

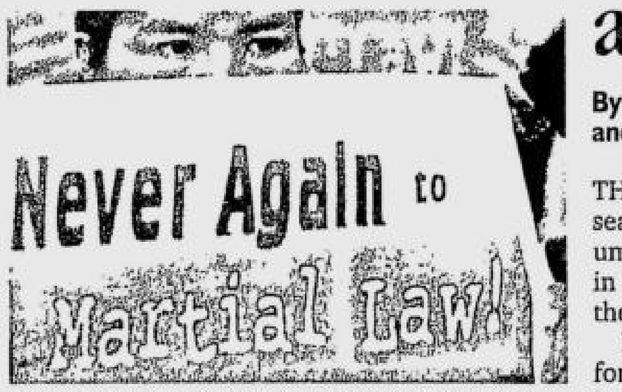
MARTIAL LAW IS GENERALLY believed to have been a one-man undertaking, but Ferdinand Marcos himself revealed that he consulted with certain people—initially referred to as the "12 apostles"—before he signed Proclamation No. 1081 on Sept. 21, 1972.

The details of the plan to declare martial law were contained in Oplan Sagittarius, a document that identified the units involved in its implementation, as well as the targets for military takeover, such as airports, oil depots and the mass media.

Marcos named the two civilians and 10 top officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a speech delivered in 1974 and published in the Official Gazette.

The military officers were AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Romeo Espino; Maj. Gen. Rafael Zagala, Army commanding general; Maj. Gen.

BEFORE/ A17



EXACTLY THE SENTIMENT of freedom fighters, victims and survivors of the Marcos martial rule. AFP

Remembering, healing and never forgetting

By TJ Burgonio and Volt Contreras

THE VOLUNTEER GUIDE AND RESEARCHER of the newly opened museum of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani in Quezon City is not your run-of-the-mill type.

Bernadette "Bernie" Aquino, a former political detainee, knows by heart, and can talk at length about, the melange of photos, books, underground publications, paintings and mementos depicting the atrocities of martial law, which are on view at the museum.

She talks more animatedly about the memorabilia of the late Fr. Jeremias "Jerry" Aquino, an Aglipayan priest, including the letters and poems he wrote from prison, and a picture of himself with his wife and their three young daughters.

REMEMBERING/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Erap sentence too harsh– Anwar

'One day he'll be free,' says former Malaysian deputy PM

By Margaux C. Ortiz

DESCRIBING JOSEPH ESTRADA AS A CLOSE friend, former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim yesterday expressed the hope the convicted former president would someday "be really free."

He also said he thought the 40-year sentence meted out on Estrada was "too harsh."

In his keynote address at the Second World Forum for Democratization in Asia at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City, Anwar made special mention of Estrada, saying he "had remained a true friend."

"I may be touching a raw nerve but please bear with me when I say that I do wish and pray that he will one day be free," Anwar said.

Anwar had a close relationship with Estrada while the two were in power. Considered one of Malaysia's most charismatic politicians, Anwar was fired nine years ago, ordered arrested by then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and convicted of abuse of power and sodomy.

He was freed in 2004 when Malaysia's highest court overturned the sodomy conviction.

In an interview with reporters after his speech, Anwar said, "I followed the case closely, more so because it involved Erap," calling Estrada by his populist nickname.

"The law is one part, but the sentencing to me is a bit harsh … it's a lot harsh," he said. "That's my personal judgment, but we still have to respect the judgment of a court of law."

ANWAR IBRAHIM

Anwar said he had no qualms about charging one or two corrupt government officials and punishing them severely, but he put things in context by citing the extent of corruption in the Philippines.

"But there are a lot more corrupt officials and I think that the penalty (meted out to Estrada) was very severe," he said.

He also said he had put in a request to see Estrada.

"I hope to say hello to him. We had been in contact in the past but I was not able to see him," Anwar said.

Anwar arrived in Manila on Sept. 18 to address the forum and is scheduled to leave today.

Estrada, for his part, thanked Anwar for his "comforting words" and laughed at their reversal of fortunes, recalling that when he was president, he had planned to visit Anwar in jail but Malaysian authorities did not allow him.

"The situation has turned around, I'm the one in detention now," Estrada told The Associated Press by phone from his Tanay, Rizal, estate where he has been under house arrest since his trial and now while his lawyers study their next move after his conviction.

Estrada was convicted by the Sandiganbayan antigraft court last week after a landmark six-year trial on plunder charges for taking bribes and kickbacks while in office.

In 1999, relations between the Philippines and Malaysia soured after Estrada, then the Philippine president, openly expressed support for Anwar.

In his speech, Anwar also thanked former President Corazon Aquino for her kindness to him and his family during his incarceration.

He also expressed gratitude to the late Sen. Blas Ople, the late Rep. Ramon Mitra, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Edgardo Angara, who he said had mobilized support for him in his fight against tyranny and oppression in Malaysia.

He then quoted Jose Rizal, whom he described as an Asian hero, as saying that "humanity will not be redeemed while reason is not free." *With an AP report*

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **PALACE AXES 3** officials for graft /A4
▨ **SC DENIES** Eala plea with finality /A6
▨ **OSG BACKS** bid in SC to stop 'Hello Garci' probe /A7

No quarter for Erap, lawyers insist

By Alcuin Papa

A GROUP OF LAWYERS, SOME OF whom were involved in the prosecution of Joseph Estrada, said yesterday they would vehemently oppose a pardon or amnesty for the convicted president.

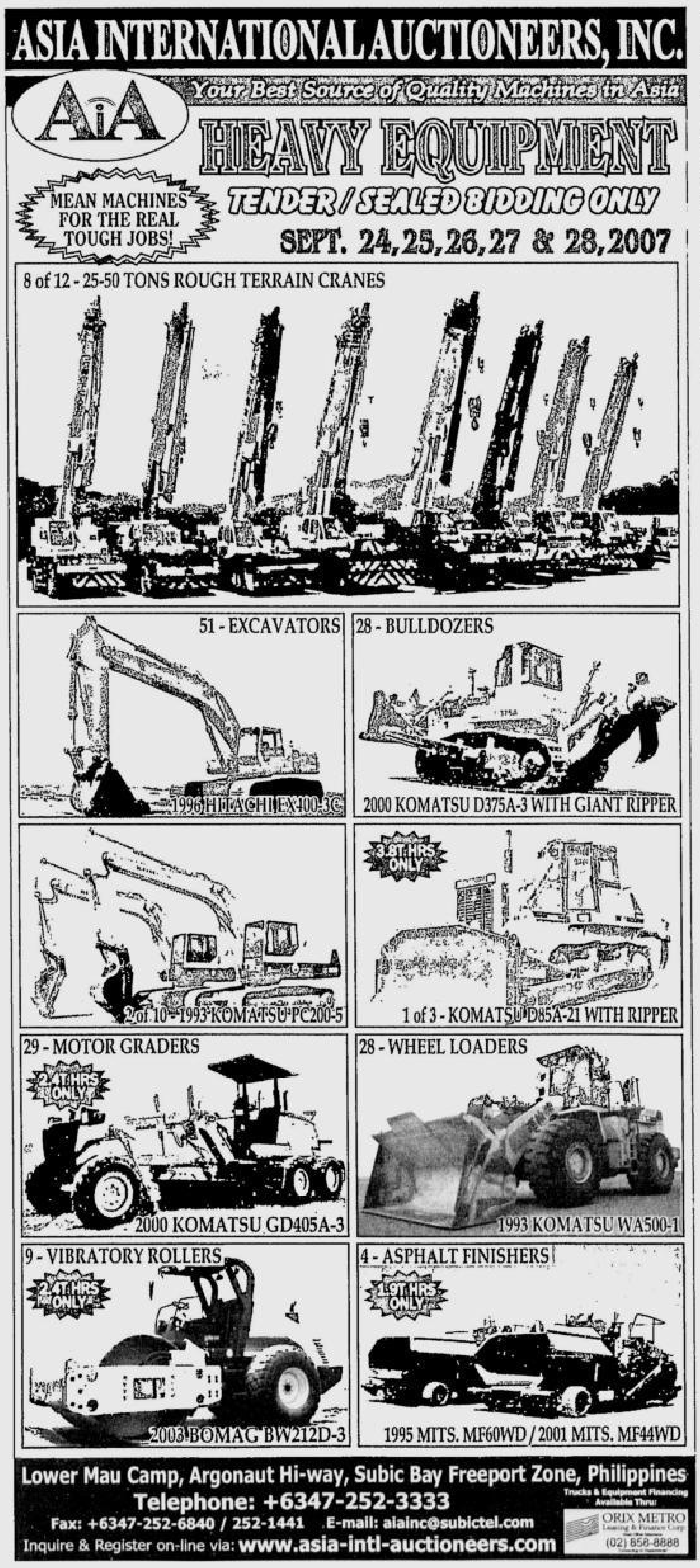
In a statement sent to the INQUIRER , the lawyers said they viewed with alarm the statements being made by the Arroyo administration officials favoring either amnesty or a pardon for Estrada.

"We are united in opposing in the strongest possible terms any grant of amnesty or pardon to anyone who has betrayed the public trust and who remains unrepentant," the lawyers said.

They added: "Let not the seductive siren call of political expediency allow an undeserving convict, no matter how powerful, to be granted amnesty or pardon meant only to serve selfish ends."

The statement was signed by Arno Sanidad, Anthony Peralta, Joe Nathan Tenefrancia, Rafael Antonio Santos, John Erico Balisnomo, Miguel Silos, Elmar Galacio, Christian Lim, Marichu Lambino, Raoul Angangco, Bienvenido Somera, Alejandro Alfonso Navarro, Susan Villanueva, Rodel Crus and Thea Daep-Laurena.

The statement was issued a day after "Law Day." September is also considered "Rule of Law Month."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Mindanao police on terror alert

By Alcuin Papa

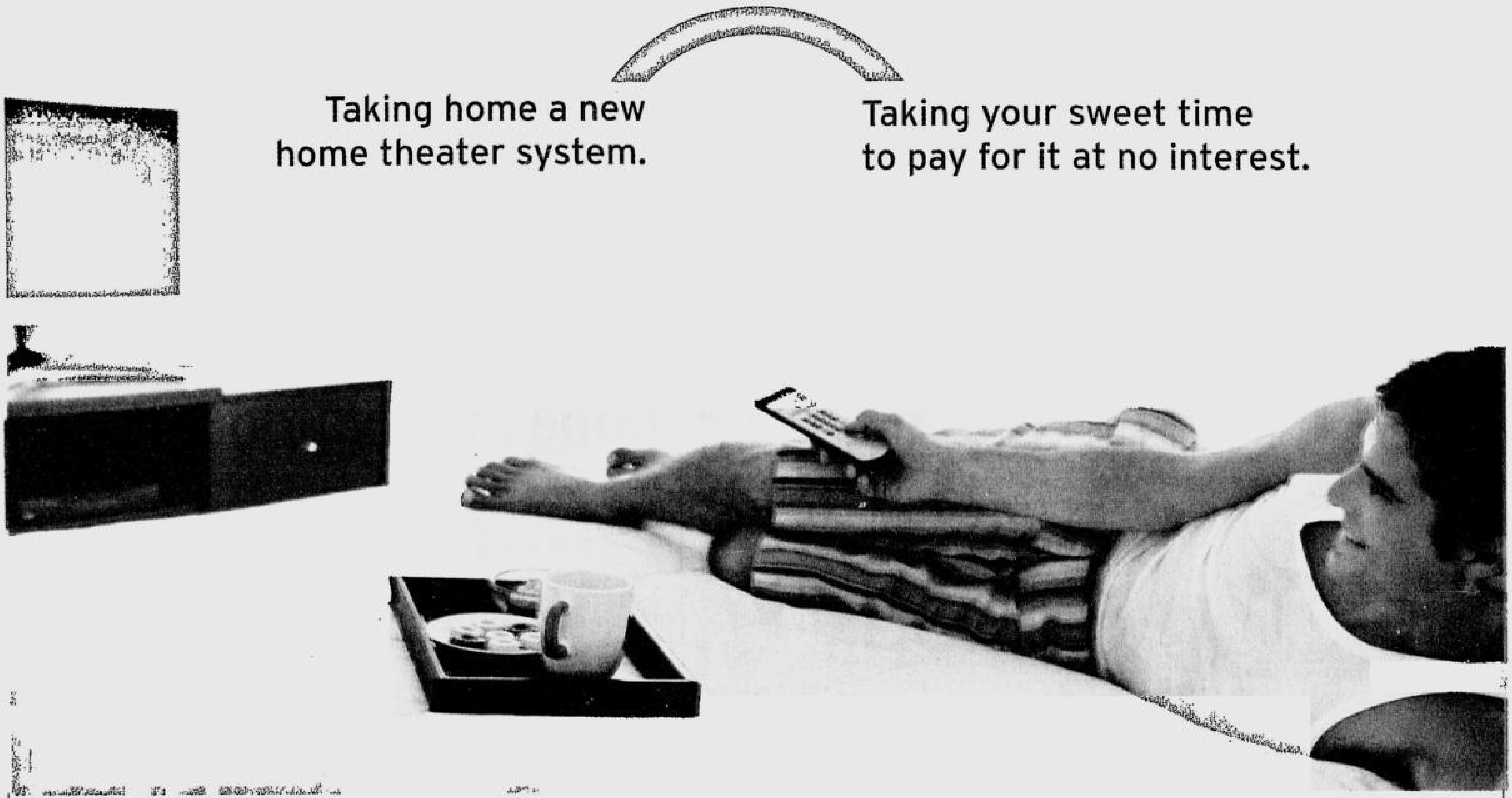
THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) yesterday ordered regional police commanders in Mindanao to maintain vigilance, suggesting that the bomb blast which ripped through a bus in South Cotabato on Wednesday could be followed by other terror attacks.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said his order was supported by a report of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) for the month of September which recommended that a high terror alert in the region be maintained.

In a statement, Calderon said the Nica Special Monitoring Committee retained the "high" or level 3 terror alert for Regions 9, 10, 11, 12 in Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"The recent incident of bombing in Marbel, South Cotabato perpetrated by the Al-Khobar extortion group and the attack of the New People's Army on cell sites of mobile phone companies in Camarines Sur are proof that terrorists are taking advantage of the developments in Metro Manila and the government offensive in Mindanao," Calderon said.

He added, "So that no more incidents may follow, I am directing all my commanders to be proactive in their campaign against terrorism by exerting more effort in 'hardening' targets of terrorist groups."



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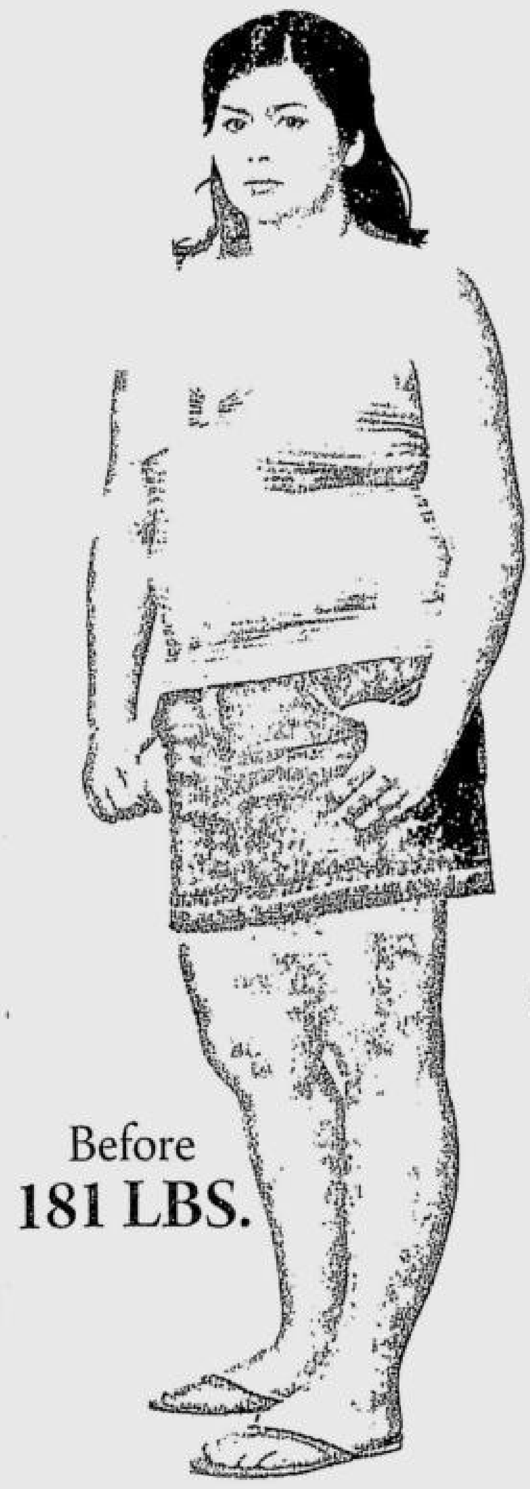

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- Aiko Melendez
Actress and Public Official

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Palace axes 3 officials for graft

By Michael Lim Ubac

AS PART OF ITS "STRENGTHened thrust to fight graft and uplift the public's perception of the government," Malacañang has dismissed three ranking government officials, suspended two others and reprimanded three more.

Dismissed were Administrator Orlando Hondrade of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and board chair Francisco Dumpit and administrator Lorenzo Jamora of the Local Water Utilities Administration.

The penalties were imposed by the Office of the President on recommendation of the Palace's graft-busting arm, the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, PAGC media officer Minaluz G. Satorre said yesterday.

Hondrade was dismissed for causing "undue injury to the government through gross inexcusable negligence" for advancing P1.5 billion toward the rehabilitation of the Umiray-Angat Transbangan Project "without complying with the law's requirements."

Chopper ride

Hondrade also rented private helicopters without a public bidding and failed to furnish the Commission on Audit documents pertinent to those expenses, the PAGC said.

The antigraft body found Hondrade guilty of grave misconduct, conduct grossly prejudicial to the best interest of the service and violation of Republic Act No. 3019, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

"He also failed to observe the mandate of Republic Act No. 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees)," the PAGC said.

Dumpit and Jamora "failed to exercise diligence" when they authorized irregular and unnecessary contracts worth P1.4 million for the construction of the LWUA Training Center without an approved budget and prior approval from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

They were found guilty of dishonesty and of violating RA 3019.

Suspended were Department of Agrarian Reform regional director Nasser M. Musali and Air Transportation Office chief Nilo C. Jatico.

Musali was found guilty of violating RA 3019 and 6713 and of simple neglect of duty for failure to declare in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth his ownership of a residential lot in Davao City.

"Musali's repeated failure to make the required declarations from 2001 to 2005 warranted suspension from the service without pay for six months," the PAGC said.

Jatico was suspended for three months without pay for belatedly liquidating cash advances totaling P1.2 million.

"Based on our investigation, Jatico failed to liquidate his cash advances for 2003-2004 amounting to P1.2 million within the period prescribed by law," PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman said.

Aside from his failure to liquidate his cash advances within the prescribed period, Jatico continued to draw funds beyond the specified limit of P85,000 per year, De Guzman said.

Reprimanded were Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero, PRC Board of Criminology chair Lourdes Aniceto and Dr. Carol M. Yorobe, assistant secretary and officer in charge of the Technology Application and Promotion Institute.

Rosero and Aniceto were reprimanded for failure to reply to a petition filed by some licensed criminologists despite several follow-ups.

"The OP decision, which modified an earlier PAGC recommendation, stated that Section 5(a) of RA 6713 was clear and categorical that public officials and employees shall respond within 15 days to communications received from the public. Evidence failed to show any attempt by both officials to comply with the law," De Guzman said.

Cabral: Adoption offers hope for abandoned kids

ADOPTION WILL HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF abused, neglected and abandoned children and laws have been passed to hold the welfare and the best interest of the child being adopted.

This was the gist of the speech of Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral during the 9th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services in Tagaytay City on Wednesday.

Cabral assured adoption experts and participants that "laws have been passed that greatly hold the welfare and best interest of the child in paramount consideration whenever we speak of adoption."

She noted that while domestic adoption is encouraged, the implementation of the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995 "has given Filipino children with no families a greater fighting chance to experience filial love and warmth."

The Inter-Country Adoption Board (Icab), an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, said the conference, which focused on the theme "Adoption: Opening Windows for Development," managed to put across the message that adoptees, and the adoptive parents, as well as adoption institutions, agencies and caregivers play a significant role in societal growth and development.

Adoption experts in the conference discussed policies and mechanisms to safeguard Filipino children being adopted by foreign families. Some 200 foreign and local delegates involved in child welfare are participating in the consultation.

Social Welfare Undersecretary and Icab alternate chair Luwalhati F. Pablo said that the four-day consultation was an effective venue for sharing experiences among professionals, experts and practitioners to ensure the protection of Filipino children being placed for inter-country adoption.

Inter-country adoption involves a Filipino child being adopted by a foreigner or a Filipino citizen permanently residing abroad.

Correction

IN THE SEPT. 20 ISSUE, a front-page story—"House coalition cracks up, JDV could lose Speakership"—erroneously attributed to Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles the statement: "Our only problem is the First Gentleman. He has always been." The statement was made by a lawmaker who declined to be identified.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Tarlac solon seeks Internet curbs on porn

IN AN EFFORT TO CURB THE RISING cases of sexual exploitation of minors in the country, Rep. Monica Prieto-Teodoro has filed House Bill No. 684 seeking the maximum penalty of life imprisonment for the production, distribution, export, transmission, sale, possession, and advertising of child pornographic materials.

In a statement, Teodoro said "there is a need for a legislative measure to address this disturbing social phenomena, which has been growing particularly due to access to and availability on the Internet."

Teodoro said that aside from reinforcing Republic Act No. 7160—the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act—the proposed measure also regulates Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and all other players in the telecommunications and information technology industry.

No protection

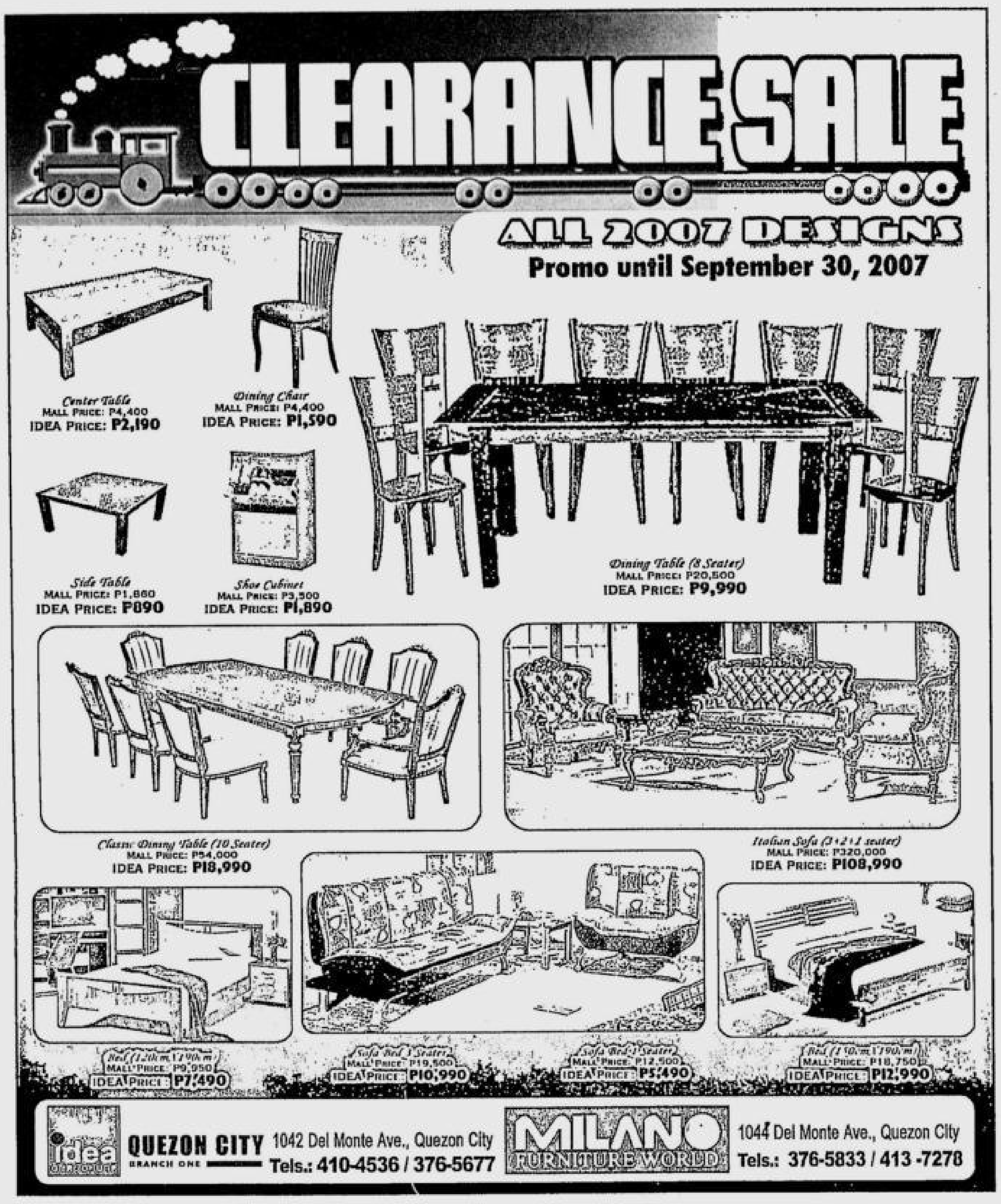
RA 7160 does not provide adequate protection to victims of other forms of sexual abuse such as child pornography.

"Unlike in other countries, Internet service in the Philippines is loosely, if at all, regulated, providing anyone with a computer or mobile phone access to illicit material," Teodoro said.

The proposed measure conforms with Article 34 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child to which the Philippines is a signatory.

The provision says that state parties should undertake measures to protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, such as inducement or coercion to engage in any unlawful sexual activity, exploitative use in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices, and exploitative use in pornographic performances and materials.

Complementary to the Convention, the Philippines is also a signatory to the Optional Protocol which prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.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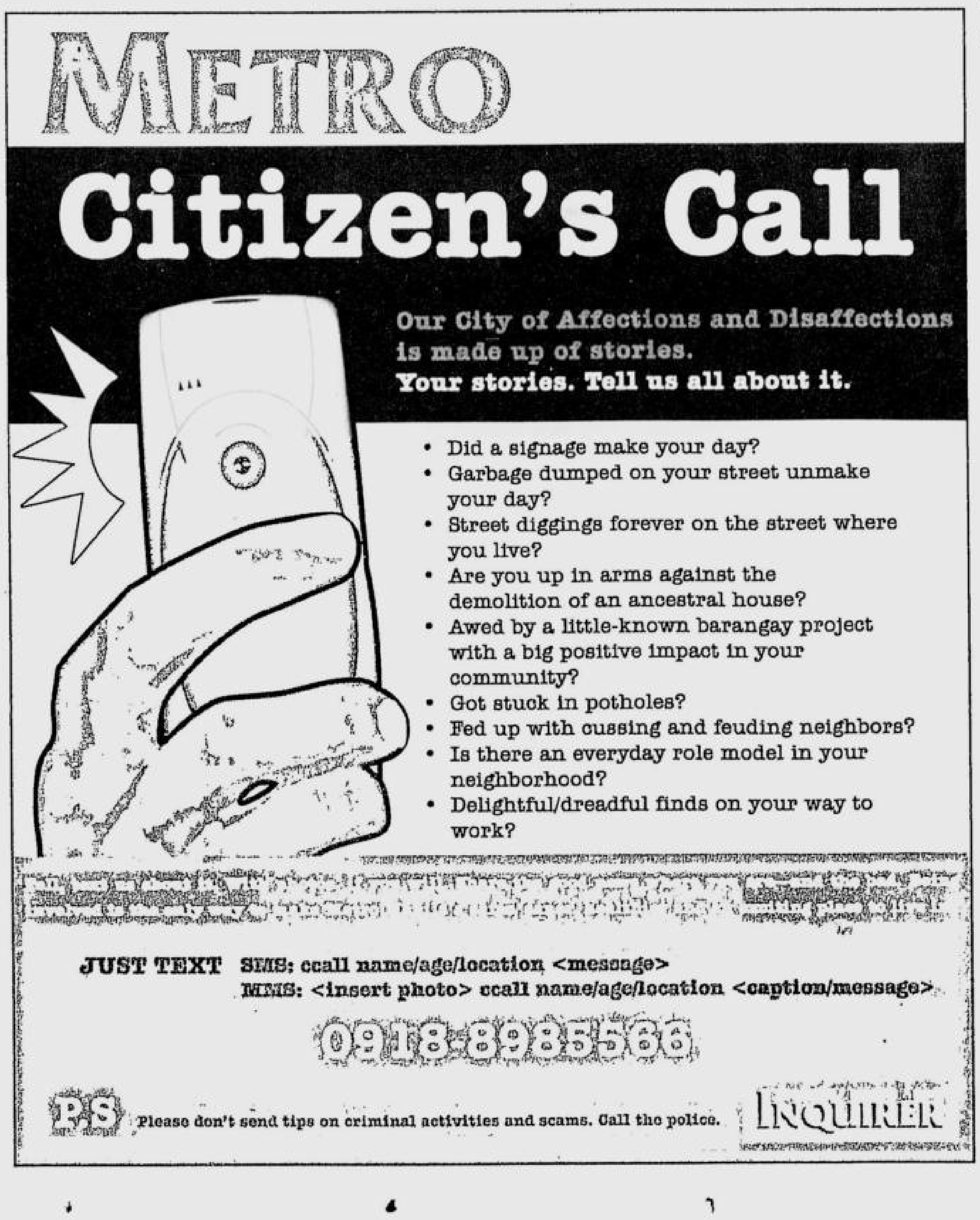
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RP still lags in recycling of toxic cell phone parts

By TJ Burgonio

GIANT ELECTRONIC FIRMS THE WORLD over are making "great improvements" eliminating toxic materials from their products, but their recycling systems are still wanting in the Philippines, an international environmental watchdog said yesterday.

"The world's leading electronic companies are now competing to become the first to go completely green by eliminating hazardous substances and by taking back and recycling their products responsibly," said Greenpeace toxics campaigner Beau Baconguis in a statement.

In Greenpeace's latest rating of green electronics, Nokia was still the greenest company, followed by Sony Ericsson, Dell and Lenovo.

The guide rates electronic firms on the presence of toxics in their products and their ability to take back and recycle their products after these are no longer in use.

The elimination of toxic substances was among the "most positive improvements" in the industry—even this was felt in developing countries like the Philippines, Greenpeace said.

But, "while this is a positive industry-wide development, some aspects like company take-back and recycling systems are unfortunately neglected in developing countries where e-waste has become a huge problem," Baconguis said.

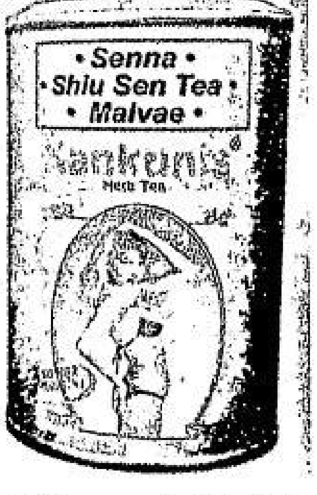
In Manila, Nokia's take-back system has yet to be reimplemented and improved. Other companies, like Hewlett-Packard, hire third-party dismantlers whose recycling systems are highly questionable, the green group said.

"Manufacturers are realizing the solutions are in their hands. The next step is for them to implement their improvements worldwide, and for governments to guarantee that they do so through extended producer responsibility legislation," Baconguis said.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, meanwhile, said it was installing 20 collection bins for dead cell phone batteries, chargers and other accessories in several Metro Manila malls to ensure their proper disposal.

"Improperly disposed of cell phone batteries or e-waste is the new hazard of our high-tech age, particularly in the Philippines, which is considered the texting capital of the world," Environment Secretary Lito Atienza said in a statement.

The malls where the bins will be set up for six months in a pilot project are Glorietta and Greenbelt in Makati City, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City and Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan City.



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SC denies Eala plea with finality

EALA

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DENIED with finality former Philippine Basketball Association Commissioner Jose Emmanuel "Noli" Eala's motion for the court to reconsider its decision stripping Eala of his right to practice law.

In a Sept. 18 resolution, the high court said it found no merit in Eala's arguments.

The high court said it was denying with finality the motion for reconsideration, "considering that the basic issues have already been passed upon and there is no substantial argument to warrant the reversal of the questioned decision."

The tribunal earlier disbarred Eala for carrying out an extramarital affair with a married woman, to whom he sent a love letter on her wedding day. The affair produced a daughter.

The high court found the former basketball official liable for grossly immoral conduct and violation of his oath of office and the Code of Professional Responsibility.

The disbarment decision, which was issued based on the complaint of the woman's husband, prompted Eala to resign as PBA commissioner.

"In carrying on an extramarital affair with (the woman) prior to the judicial declaration that her marriage with complainant was null and void, and despite respondent himself being married, he showed disrespect for an institution held sacred by the law. And he betrayed his unfitness to be a lawyer," the high court said in an Aug. 1 decision.

The Supreme Court noted that Eala had not denied his affair with the married woman, and contended only that he flaunted the relationship. It also said Eala did not deny that he fathered the woman's daughter.

According to the high court, it was immaterial whether the affair was carried out discreetly or not, since the subject of the complaint was a relationship between a married lawyer and a married woman not his wife.

The high court said Eala violated his lawyer's oath to obey the law and also the Code of Professional Responsibility that prohibits a lawyer from engaging in unlawful or immoral conduct, and any action adversely reflecting on his fitness to practice law.

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OSG backs bid in SC to stop 'Hello Garci' probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR General has supported a petition by two retired justices before the Supreme Court seeking to stop the Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" tapes containing alleged wiretapped conversations of President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official.

In a comment before the high court, the OSG, which represents the government, said any discussion of the recording's contents would be illegal, being prohibited by the Constitution under the right to privacy of communication and by the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

It said the Constitution bans the use of any evidence illegally obtained in any proceeding, while the Anti-Wiretapping Law declares unlawful the discussion of the contents of wiretapped material.

The use of the tapes, even in a Senate investigation, was therefore not allowed, the OSG said.

The Hello Garci tapes reportedly contain the conversations of the President with an election official in which the two allegedly discussed electoral fraud.

"Plainly, the replaying of an unauthorized wiretap and the communication of its contents, either verbally or in writing, is unlawful. In fact, even the mere 'knowing' possession of an illegal wiretap already constitutes a violation of the law," the OSG said.

It said the Senate investigations were "evidently actionable inasmuch as they involve a discussion of the contents of the so-called 'Garci tapes,' the OSG said in its comment filed last Wednesday.

It cited a violation of the Constitution and the Anti-Wiretapping Law during the Sept. 7 Senate hearing in which the contents of the wiretapping were discussed, citing an exchange between Sen. Loren Legarda and former military intelligence agent Vidal Doble.

The Senate reopened the Hello Garci issue after Sen. Panfilo Lacson delivered a speech and presented the statement of Doble, who he said had heard the President and former elections commissioner Virgilio Garcillano talking about an "additional one million votes" for Ms Arroyo when he wiretapped their conversation.

Doble had also linked an aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the operation to get him out of the San Carlos Seminary where he had holed up following the expose about the wiretapped recording.

The OSG was commenting on a petition before the high court by retired Court of Appeals justices Santiago Ranada and Oswaldo Agcaoili who sought to stop the Senate hearing, saying the issue would further divide the country and that the investigations would violate the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

They also said the rules of procedure necessary for the conduct of inquiries in aid of legislation have not yet been published.

In its comment, the OSG also concurred with Ranada's and Agcaoili's observation about the absence of rules governing the Senate inquiry.

It said the Constitution mandates that rules of procedures on inquiries in aid of legislation be published to forestall or eliminate abuses.

"Accordingly, there must be strict compliance with this constitutional command of 'duly published rules of procedure.' With all due respect, however, this evident mandate of the Constitution has not been fully satisfied by the Senate of the 14th Congress," it said.

GARCILLANO

Court won't let witness testify on abductions

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY stopped a member of the Karapatan human rights group from testifying on incidents of alleged enforced disappearances in Central Luzon during a hearing on the habeas corpus petition of missing activist Jonas Burgos.

Sister Cecille Ruiz, the Karapatan chair for Central Luzon, was supposed to testify on other incidents of enforced disappearances allegedly done by the military in the region.

The Office of Solicitor General opposed Ruiz's testimony on the ground that it was irrelevant.

Ruiz was the witness presented by Jonas' mother, Edita Burgos, who filed the petition for habeas corpus against the military and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The head of the appellate court's 7th Division that is hearing the case said the directive from the Supreme Court, where the petition was filed, was to hear the petition only and therefore disallowed Ruiz to testify.

Justice Remedios Salazar-Fernando, the division head, also said that the Karapatan data was presented during the Supreme Court-led summit on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in July, where she was one of the participants.

Immaterial to the case

Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tang said Ruiz's testimony was immaterial to the case since the Supreme Court has declared that the issue in petitions for habeas corpus deal is whether a person is illegally detained.

Since the military has repeatedly denied it has the missing activist in its custody, the petition should be dismissed outright, said Tang.

But Edita's lawyer Ricardo Fernandez argued that the petition was not just a simple habeas corpus case since they had also asked that command responsibility be determined and the police be directed to make a more thorough investigation of Jonas' disappearance.

A need to find solutions

"The court is tasked to decide the case on the merits and one of the issues raised is the fact that the Jonas Burgos case is not an isolated one," Fernandez said.

Fernandez also noted the pronouncements of Chief Justice Reynato Puno that there is a need to find solutions to petitions for habeas corpus, which have been dismissed on mere denial of the other party that he does not have the person.

"We will not find out the truth behind the disappearance of Jonas Burgos if the testimony of Sister Cecille Ruiz is not presented. The court should take a more liberal stance in accepting her," he said.

Jonas was abducted at the Hapag Kainan restaurant at the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City on April 28. He was reportedly forced into a vehicle with Plate No. TAB-194. The vehicle plates were later traced to another vehicle in the custody of the 56th Infrantry Battalion in Bulacan.

The Provost Marshal General has conducted an investigation into the administrative liability of military personnel for the loss of the license plate in its custody, but has so far refused to release the report to the Burgos family.

The report has been subpoenaed by the court, but the military filed a motion to quash it.

The court denied the motion, but the OSG appealed the ruling. The Burgos family has been given five days to comment on the OSG's motion for reconsideration.

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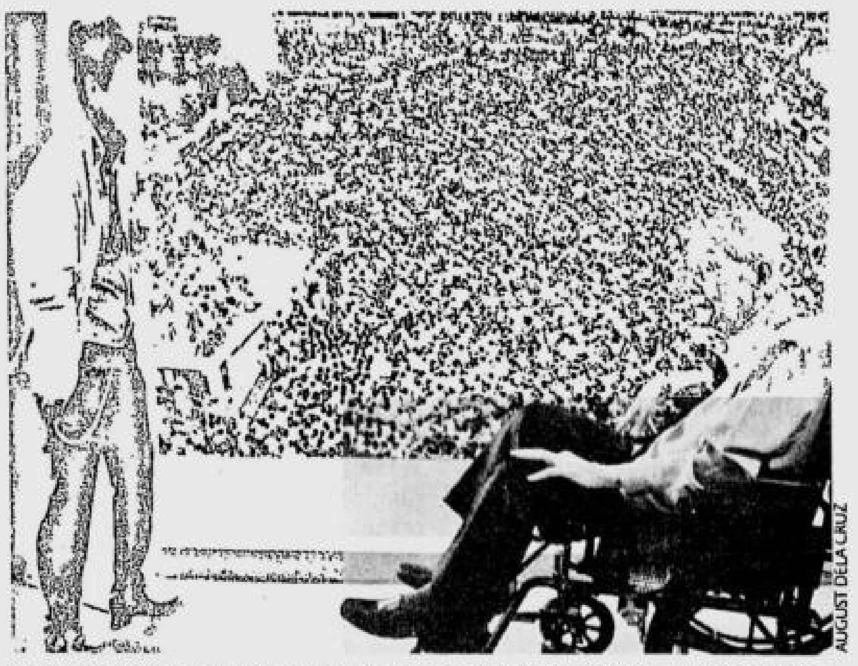
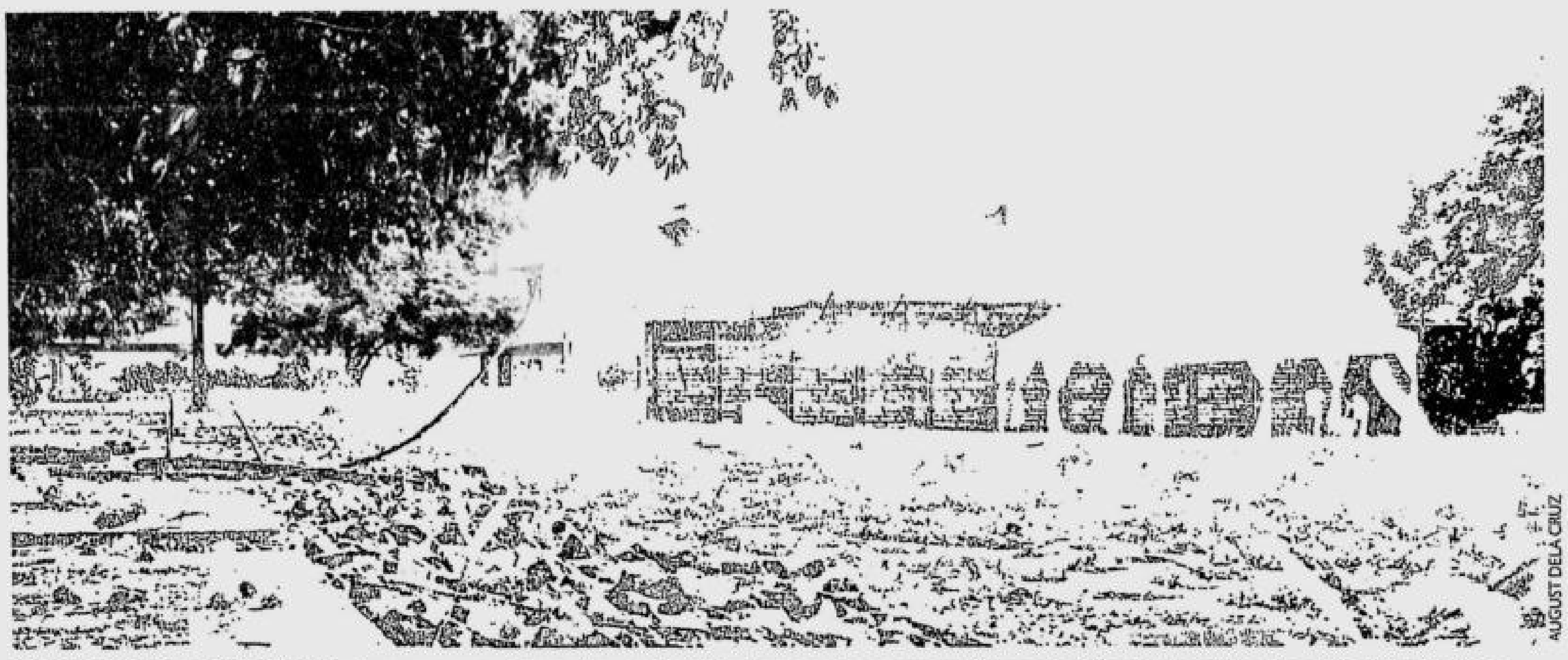
PORTRAIT OF PEOPLE POWER in Makati City from the time when protest actions were daily occurrences is up on the wall at the museum. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



MOVING PICTURE: Blowup photo of an anti-Marcos rally toward the waning years of martial rule after the assassination of Ninoy Aquino is on one wall of the museum at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani. Former Solicitor General and Ambassador Sedfrey Ordoñez (right) is one of the distinguished visitors on the 35th anniversary of the declaration of martial law on Thursday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ



MEMORIAL TO HEROISM: Bantayog ng mga Bayani's new building houses the memorabilia pertaining to the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship, including a prison cell replica. On the Wall of Remembrance are the names of martyrs of a dark period in the nation's history. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

From page A1

To Bernie's activist-friends, this is not surprising. After all, Jerry Aquino was her husband.

Now 53, Bernie is a program assistant at Peace for Life, an international interfaith organization that opposes militarization and globalization.

She organizes forums and conferences, and her typical day begins and ends with making calls and sending e-mail to a network of people's groups.

She leaves her office on Edsa in her spare time, and walks a few meters to the museum.

And in much the same way that the museum offers young people a glimpse of the horrors of martial law, Bernie's volunteer work allows her to come to grips with her own pain.

"This is a kind of healing," she says.

Prison time

In 1974, after three years of organizing students and workers, the 20-year-old Bernie was arrested by a truckload of soldiers, charged with subversion and thrown in jail.

She was released two years later. She resumed her work, met Jerry Aquino at the National Council of Churches of the Philippines, and married him.

Two years later, the couple left Manila for northern Luzon, where they organized peasants and worked with the minorities, until Jerry was arrested by military authorities in September 1979.

He was detained for a year at a Philippine Constabulary stockade in Bontoc, Mt. Province, and later at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig. He was freed in December 1980, after days of fasting.

A year later, at 32, he was killed in a vehicular accident in Manila.

These days, Bernie cannot talk publicly about her and her husband's experience during martial law—which was imposed 35 years ago today—without choking up.

Asked about her most painful memories, she says: "[Our] arrest, interrogation and detention. Our life of being always on the run. The thought that you will be arrested and killed. My isolation from my family."

'A form of release'

But Bernie has found comfort in sifting through her husband's mementos, putting them on exhibit at the museum, and sharing his life story with complete strangers.

"When I started arranging them, the memories came flooding back," she says. "After we presented them at the museum, it was some sort of healing for us."

Bernie and her daughters—Kalayaan, 30; Diwa, 27; and Dakila, 25 (from Dakilang Diwa ng Kalayaan)—worked with 11 other female activists in researching and collating martial law memorabilia, and then designing the museum.

"The first time [I shared the experience], I cried. I still cry, but it's not that intense anymore after telling and retelling his story," Bernie says. "Sharing his life story, my life story—it's a form of release."

Sorting her father's journal, letters and poems was a rediscovery for Dakila, who was only three months old when he died.

"It's like going back to the past. You become part of what you're doing," she told the INQUIRER at the museum's opening last month. "You can't write, or organize the photos, if you don't have background. You really have to go back to the diaries to get the right perspective."

The Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation opened the museum on Aug. 24 on the second floor of the Jovito R. Salonga Building behind the Bantayog Memorial on Quezon Avenue.

The museum complements the Bantayog Memorial, a soaring 45-foot bronze monument, and the Wall of Remembrance that bears the names of over 100 heroes and martyrs who fought Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship.

The mementos, documents, letters and other memorabilia on display span the period from 1965, when Marcos took his oath as President, to his ouster in 1986.

Passion and commitment

Bernie is now writing her husband's story from her memory and that of fellow activists and colleagues in the Church, as part of her contribution to a "commemorative book" on the heroes and martyrs of martial law.

Jerry Aquino was part of the Christian resistance to martial law.

While the head of the Philippine Independent (or Aglipayan) Church had backed Marcos, Jerry spoke out against the regime's excesses while saying Mass in a church or on the road.

He opposed the construction of the Chico hydroelectric dam in view of the dangers it posed to the Cordillera peoples.

"He went to areas where there was no priest. He made the peasants aware of their situation, and of the need for them to organize themselves. He brought the Church to them," his widow says.

"He had passion, and commitment."

Like the museum, the book will attempt to present the other story of martial law—the story of its victims—which, Bernie says, "has been lost in history books."

"I'm using my painful experience to keep me going," she says. "There's never any closure because the things Jerry fought against are still happening. The poverty, violence, corruption—they are continuing."

Midnight curfew

Often buried in the painful recollection of the dark days are the fast-fading memories of how even ordinary citizens, or those with little or no involvement in political activism, felt the dictatorship's iron fist.

One of the drastic changes in their world was the state-imposed curfew from midnight to 4 a.m.

It was one of Marcos' most sweeping tools of fear, and it found targets in people like a cabdriver in his 20s when martial law was declared on Sept. 21, 1972.

Thinking he had eluded authorities by taking the inner streets, Ramon eventually got flagged down on Buendia Avenue in Pasay City by a mobile team of cops under the then Metropolitan Command.

"The policeman even addressed me as 'Sir' and asked rather politely why I'm still out. It was just past midnight," recalled "Ramon," now in his 50s and still driving a cab. (He declined to give his real name, saying: "I just want a quiet life.")

He was told to pull over—and by 3:30 a.m. he had been joined by some 20 other cabdrivers, men on motorbikes, even messengers lugging bags full of envelopes.

The offenders—in their respective vehicles and their driver's licenses confiscated—were told to join a passing "convoy" of other curfew violators. They drove all the way to the Army headquarters then in Fort Bonifacio, where their names were taken down.

At 8 a.m., the offenders were ordered to "pull weeds" in what Ramon thought was a playground.

They were released before noon, given their licenses back, and warned against a repeat offense.

Ramon recalled that certain motorists were granted "curfew passes," such as transporters of perishables like meat and vegetables.

Nightlife

If a cabbie takes someone to a hospital during curfew hours, "the doctor has to write a letter certifying the emergency; that would be the driver's pass to get home," he said.

The curfew had unintended results in people's nocturnal lifestyles.

The siren signaling the curfew offered choices for revelers at that time—rush home before the clock struck 12 or, more often, sleep over, or party until the wee hours of the morning.

Those who hurried back to the comfort of their homes whiled away the rest of the night watching films on Betamax or playing the guitar.

"Almost all knew how to play some chords," said activist Liddy Nacpil.

Now in her 40s, Nacpil recalled how her fellow teenagers formed bands playing American classics (by The Carpenters, James Taylor, The Jerks and The Police) or Manila Sound ditties (by the Pinoy pop-rock band Hotdog.)

Manila Sound, a musical genre that flourished in the early to mid-1970s, was often regarded as the "bright side" of the martial law era.

The fad eventually marked the advent of the inter-school "Battle of the Bands," Nacpil said. "We developed a taste for songs that tell a story or express deeper emotions."

But the activist that she was, she naturally gravitated to songs that had political or inspirational undertones.

Nacpil also recalled going with her friends to the small cinemas on Aurora Boulevard—before it became a landscape of flyovers and highways—to watch "Star Wars" and movies by Lino Brocka and Eddie Romero (the likes of "Maynila: Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag" et al.).

"But it was really risky to hang out with a group of more than three in public places, even if you were just having a good time," she said.

It was, she said, a 24-hour doughnut shop that provided her and her friends a safe place to hang out.

'Approval'

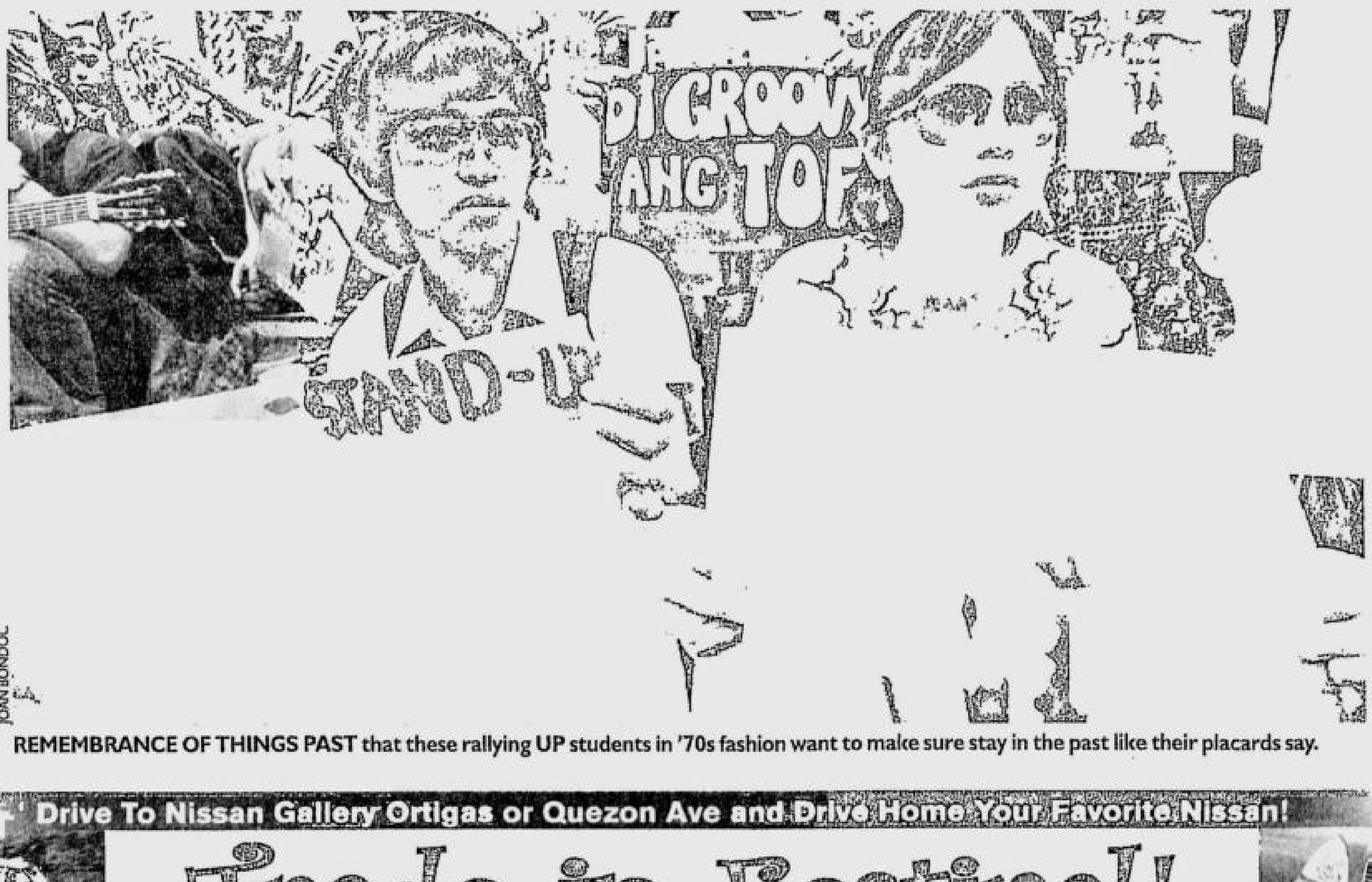
Naturally, nightspots made a killing.

"There were reasons to stay in nightclubs, and wives didn't like it," activist theater director Behn Cervantes curtly observed.

Cervantes, himself a former detainee, surmised on hindsight that parents at that time "approved" of martial law because it forced their children to be home before midnight.

He said that to these parents, martial law represented the restoration of order and discipline at the height of the "hippie, long-hair" era:

"Parents felt they were losing control [over their children], and then here comes another force doing it for them—the military—which seemed to come across as a benevolent, yet stricter, second parent." *With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy*



JOAN BONDOC

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NISSAN

Exec sees world labor shortage

By Margaux C. Ortiz

RAPIDLY AGING POPULATIONS AND RADical shifts in demography have resulted in a shortage of skilled workers and an alarming increase in unemployment worldwide.

In an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) conference on human resource and economic development in Makati City Tuesday, local and foreign labor officials emphasized the need to respond to this disturbing trend.

"There is a growing need for human talent in the Asia-Pacific region, including the United States," said Deputy Assistant Secretary Douglas Small of the US Department of Labor employment and training administration.

Small said the Apec conference was meant to be a venue for exchanging information on human resource development as part of worldwide investment.

"The world labor market is suffering from an aging work force and a shortage of skilled youth," Small said.

Undersecretary Luzviminda Padilla of the Department of Labor and Employment confirmed what Small said, adding that the Philippine labor market was suffering from a labor surplus and jobs mismatch.

"There is a large number of educated unemployed and underemployed in the country, especially among women and the youth," Padilla said in her speech at the conference.

Padilla said the jobs mismatch was the result of lack of information on work requirements and a gap in educational facilities to meet market skills.

"There is really a need to strategize so lives in our country would be better off," Padilla said.

The keynote speaker, Richard Evans, country manager of Manpower Outsourcing Services Inc., echoed the challenge to employers worldwide.

"There is fierce competition for talent worldwide, limiting the supply of skilled workers," Evans said.

He said the Western world was aging "and the baby boomers are nearing retirement age and no one is around to take their place."

Evans also said demographic shifts were a result of low fertility rates and higher life expectancy.

"By 2050, there will be 1.2 billion people over 50 years old in the Asia Pacific," he said.

PCGG stops deal on Pasig property

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government has stopped the implementation of a management deal involving the "Payanig," an 18.4-hectare prime property in Pasig City which was turned over to the government in 1986 by one of the cronies of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

PCGG chair Camilo Sabio has asked the Mid-Pasig Land Development Corp. which owns the property and Optimus Property Holdings Corp. to hold in abeyance their June 27 management contract. Mid-Pasig Land was one of several Marcos firms surrendered to the government by businessman Jose Yao Campos under a compromise deal with the PCGG.

The PCGG has sought legal advice on the issue from the Office of the Solicitor General.

"We'll have the final review...We're going to discuss it en banc," Sabio said.

The PCGG wants to know whether a public bidding is needed considering the value of the property involved and whether the agreement violates the antigraft law.

Sabio told a news conference yesterday that the Mid-Pasig Land-Optimus agreement "together with the comment of the Solicitor General will be transmitted to the Secretary of Justice for final review and action."

Some PCGG insiders yesterday accused Commissioner Ricardo Abcede of keeping the body in the dark about the Mid-Pasig Land-Optimus deal.

Abcede is in charge of the PCGG's asset management department.

But Abcede denied the allegation, saying the agreement was not yet a done deal.

"*Wala pa 'yan* (There's nothing to it). It has been approved only on the (Mid-Pasig-Optimus level). It is still subject to a lot of discussions by the commission en banc, which in turn will refer it to the OSG," Abcede told the INQUIRER.

He assured that the PCGG would not enter into a contract that will be disadvantageous to the government."

On March 20, Optimus president Precioso Perlas forwarded to Mid-Pasig chair Ernesto Jalandoni the draft of their proposed property management agreement.

Optimus, a property management company with expertise on taking over properties with legal problems, has offered to manage and administer the Payanig property for Mid-Pasig.

The firm noted that only 48 percent of the Payanig property was productive with the rest embroiled in legal proceedings from which no income is derived.

The Payanig property, said to be worth over P10 billion, is the subject of two civil cases now pending with the Sandiganbayan, including an ownership claim by Marcos' son Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Free measles shots

CHILDREN AGED nine months to four years can avail themselves of free measles immunizations in their barangay health centers next month as the Department of Health (DOH) tries to keep up with the country's goal of controlling the disease in the country by 2008.

The DOH is set to implement another round of measles immunizations for children in October to reach out to the children who were missed in the past implementations of the program.

Yolly Oliveros, director of the National Center for National Disease Prevention and Control, said in an interview that the "Knock-out Tigdas" Campaign next month will be a "catch-up" in keeping with the country's goal of eliminating measles deaths by 2008. *Beverly T. Natividad*

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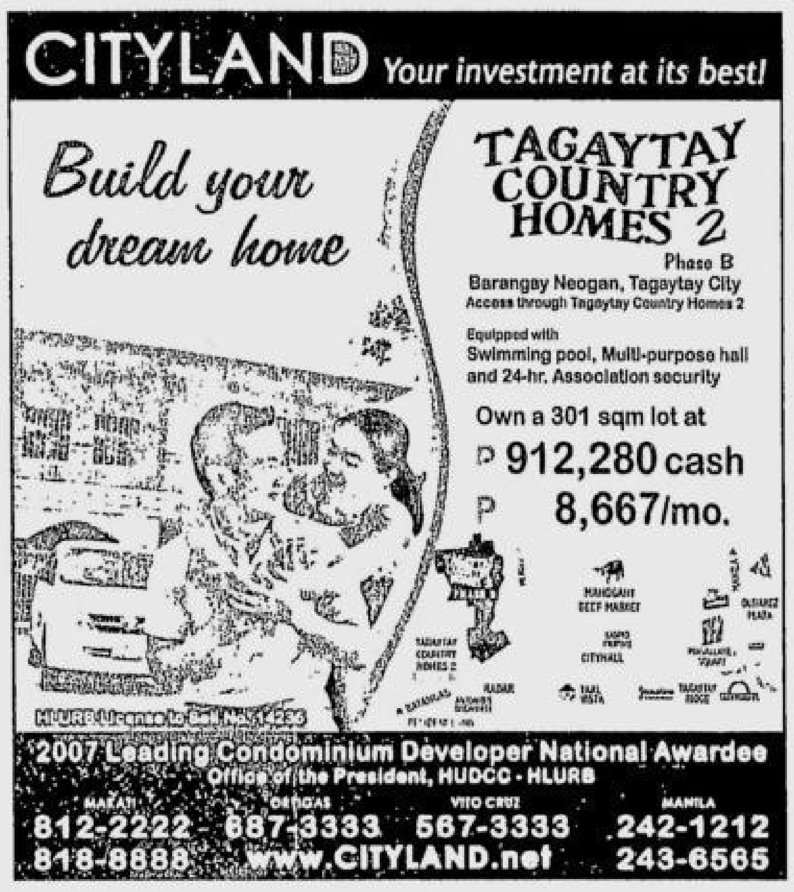

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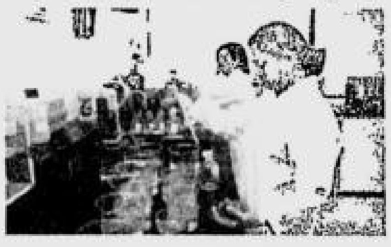

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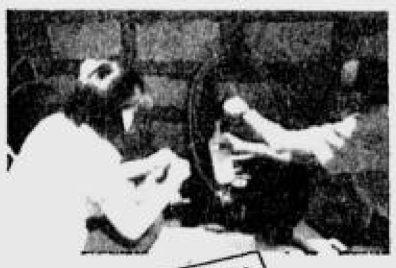
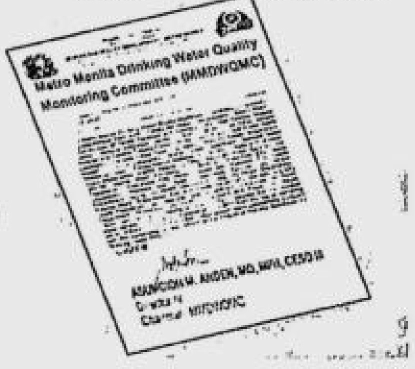




Metro Manila Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee (MMDWQMC)

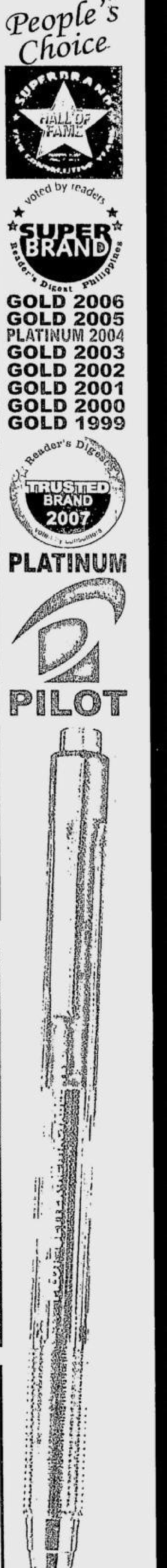
Metro Water is Safe

Water Quality Report*

MANILA WATER East Zone		CRITERIA	MAYNILAD West Zone	
JULY	AUGUST		JULY	AUGUST
740	743	Number of samples examined	738	749
740	743	Number of potable samples	733	746
95%	95%	Minimum compliance with Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water (PNSDW)	95%	95%
100%	100%	Satisfactory Compliance	99.32%	99.60%
0.76	0.69	Average residual chlorine in Parts Per Million (PPM)	0.86	0.89
0.20	0.20	PNSDW requirement in Parts Per Million (PPM)	0.20	0.20

* Metro Manila Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Committee

Manila Water MWSS NWRB DOH DENR MWSI



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"REBELS" FOR EDUCATION plot their next move on Thursday at the residence of Eugenia Duran-Apostol, chair of the Foundation for World Wide People Power. Clockwise, from left, are Joel Pagsanghan, an unidentified participant, Apostol, ICF education chair Gerry de Asis, Butchie Ayuyao, Irene Labitad of Metrobank, Carmela Oracion of the Ateneo Center for Education, 57-75 program officer Nicole Tria Tirona and Mario Deriquito of Ayala Foundation and head of Task Force 57-75.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Education revolution

From page A1

day in Dasmariñas Village in Makati City to hatch their plan to pursue the mission of pulling up the learning curve among Filipino students and boosting the national basic school aptitude average.

"Education is the most commonly mentioned social problem that we need to address, and the problems of education are so huge … so you really need a large-scale effort from both the private sector and government to address the problem," said Joel Pagsanghan of the Foundation for World Wide People Power (FWW-PP), a member of the movement.

"That's how 57-75 comes in. It's a coming together of many organizations already involved in education, a coming together of groups to have a bigger, collective impact," he told the INQUIRER.

Launched two months ago, 57-75 was so named to represent its aspiration—elevating the basic education achievement test average from around 57 percent in school year 2004-05 to the passing mark of 75 percent. It has become the largest confederation of education reform organizations in the private sector since a consortium discussed how to further expand its reach in the corporate community last year.

Broader corporate support

As the group puts it, 57-75 "is an expression of confidence in the capacity of our children, their teachers, our schools and our society to rise from mediocrity, with support."

The movement was borne out of the FWWPP's Education Revolution, an advocacy launched in 2002 by its founder, Eugenia Duran-Apostol, who is also the INQUIRER founding chair. The campaign sought to gather all education stakeholders in a grassroots-based effort to beat the education crisis.

On the road to fulfilling such goal, the 57-75 counts as members major Manila-based corporate organizations, including the FWWPP, League of Corporation Foundations; Philippine Business for Education, Philippine Business for Social Progress; Ateneo Center for Education Development;

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From page A1

professor Scott E. Fahlman, he was the first to use three keystrokes—a colon followed by a hyphen and a parenthesis—as a horizontal "smiley face" in a computer message.

To mark the anniversary of the electronic character's creation, Fahlman and his colleagues started on Wednesday an annual student contest for innovation in technology-assisted, person-to-person communication. The Smiley Award, sponsored by Yahoo Inc., carries a $500 cash prize.

Language experts say the smiley face and other emotional icons, known as emoticons, have given people a concise way in e-mail and other electronic messages of expressing sentiments that otherwise would be difficult to detect.

First posting

Fahlman posted the emoticon in a message to an online electronic bulletin board at 11:44 a.m. on Sept. 19, 1982, during a discussion about the limits of online humor and how to denote comments meant to be taken lightly.

"I propose the following character sequence for joke markers: :-)," wrote Fahlman. "Read it sideways."

The suggestion gave computer users a way to convey humor or positive feelings with a smile—or the opposite sentiments by reversing the parenthesis to form a frown.

Carnegie Mellon said Fahlman's smileys spread from its campus to other universities, then businesses and eventually around the world as the Internet gained popularity.

Computer science and linguistics professors contacted by The Associated Press said they were unaware of who first used the symbol.

"I've never seen any hard evidence that the :-) sequence was in use before my original post, and I've never run into anyone who actually claims to have invented it before I did," Fahlman wrote on the university's Web page dedicated to the smiley face.

"But it's always possible that someone else had the same idea—it's a simple and obvious idea, after all," he said.

Variations emerge

Variations, such as the "wink" that uses a semicolon, emerged later. And today people can hardly imagine using computer chat programs that don't translate keystrokes into colorful graphics, said Ryan Stansifer, a computer science professor at the Florida Institute of Technology.

"Now we have so much power, we don't settle for a colon-dash-paren," Stansifer said. "You want the smiley face, so all these chatting software have to have them."

Instant messaging programs often contain an array of faces intended to express emotions ranging from surprise to affection to embarrassment.

"It has been fascinating to watch this phenomenon grow from a little message I tossed off in 10 minutes to something that has spread all around the world," Fahlman was quoted as saying in a university statement.

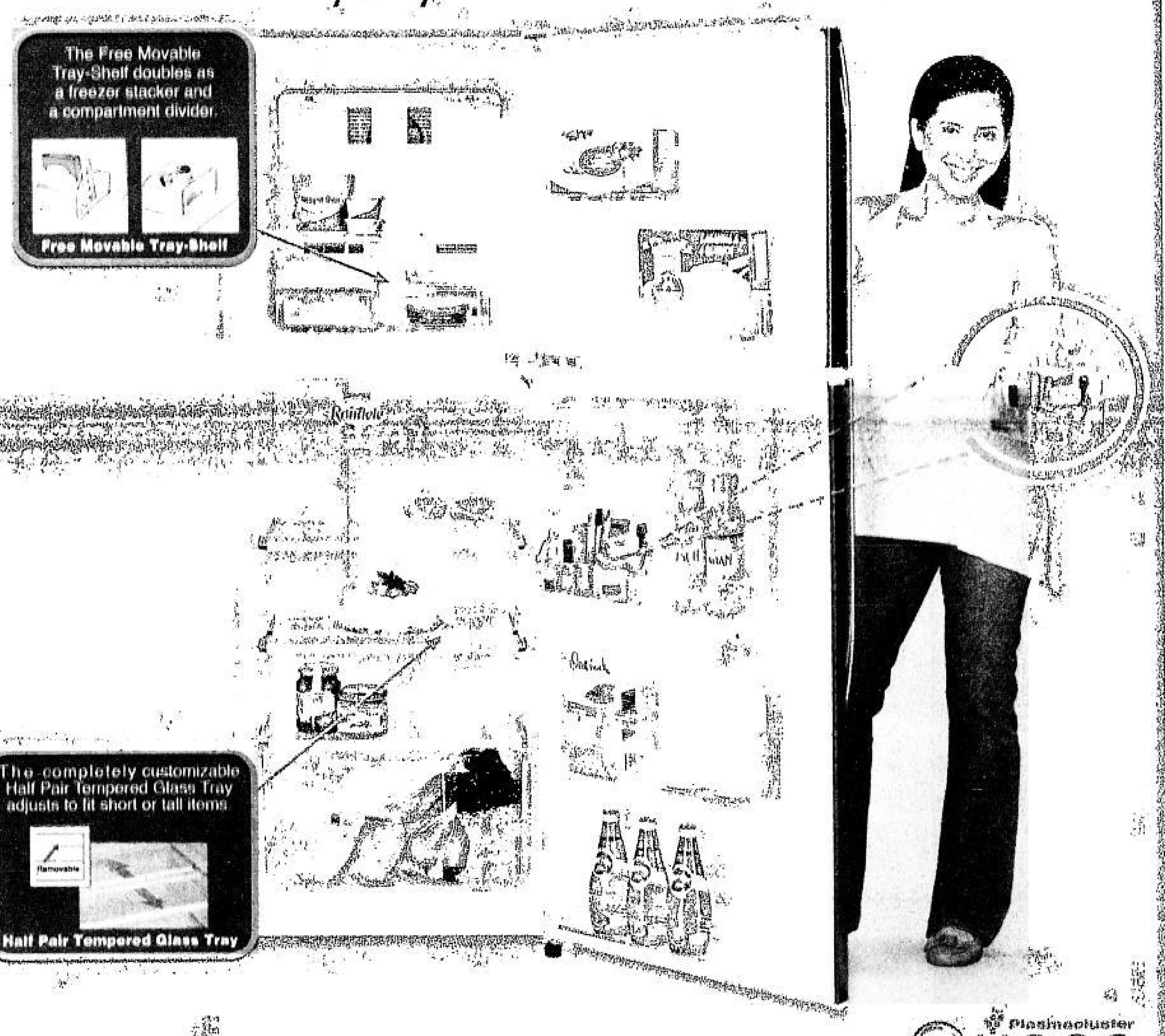
"I sometimes wonder how many millions of people have typed these characters, and how many have turned their heads to one side to view a smiley, in the 25 years since this all started."

Amy Weinberg, a University of Maryland linguist and computer scientist, said emoticons such as the smiley were "definitely creeping into the way, both in business and academia, people communicate."

"In terms of things that language processing does, you have to take them into account," Weinberg said. "If you're doing almost anything … and you have a sentence that says 'I love my boss' and then there's a smiley face you better not take that seriously."

Expressing emotion

Clifford Nass, a professor of communications at Stanford University, said emoticons reflected the likely original purpose of language—to enable people to express emotion.



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tions Mario Deriq-
the 57-75 working
group, said the locales were selected based on the dynamism of their local government units, civil society groups and the Department of Education divisions.

Probability of success

"We wanted a higher probability of success, so we identified areas where there are proactive government officials [and] dynamic school superintendents, and then we also looked at potential corporate partners," Deriquito said.

Elementary schools within the divisions were selected based on their students' rating in the recent National Achievement Test. Lower performers were listed for the program.

The movement implemented a program directed toward curbing school attrition or the fallout of enrollees at every grade level, improving lesson comprehension and ultimately uplifting the average rating in achievement tests.

"Dropouts are most typical in Grades 1 and 2 because of poverty and malnutrition. In terms of literacy, comprehension becomes most important in Grades 3 and 4 … For instance, they get low grades in math, that's not because they can't do math but rather because they didn't understand the textbook," said Pagsanghan.

Achievement rating becomes most important in the last two years in elementary school, he added.

Learning outcomes

"That should be the problem, instead of just looking at solving problems about leaky roofs, the lack of classrooms, year after year. Solving the problem of facilities is a means to an end, not an end in itself," Pagsanghan said.

"What is important is to achieve learning outcomes: Retention, comprehension and achievement," he said.

To reverse the trend, the 57-75 Movement has started the project sites in partnership with local participants. It has helped pilot schools identify problems hampering good scholastic ratings and thinking of ways to address them.

"In the six areas, we have organized education summits where they gather stakeholders—local business, parent-teacher associations, civic groups, NGOs and schools. And then they look at their education situation, from where they develop the plan on how to address the problems," Deriquito said.

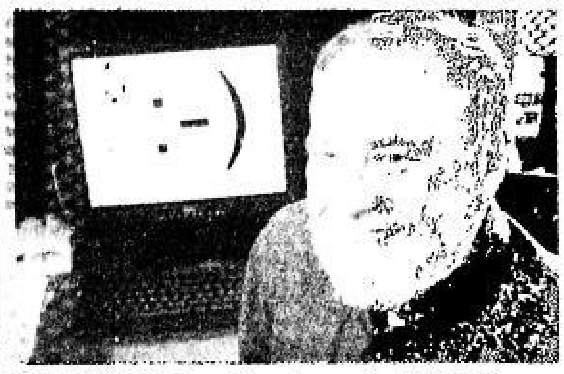
"The plan and the projects are generated on the ground. They also provide their own resources, then corporations and donor individual from outside come in to fill in the gaps," he added.

Long, difficult fight

As it faces a "gargantuan" task, the 57-75 Movement is aware that the revolution will be a long, difficult fight.

"The idea is to have synergy. Instead of us having our own efforts independently, and the effect is little, this movement is an attempt to focus private sector initiatives. What we'd like to see is progressive improvements. It doesn't need to be dramatic right away," said Pagsanghan.

ley face' emotional icon celebrated



MR. SMILEY himself, professor Scott E. Fahlman, did it with 3 keystrokes—a colon followed by a hyphen and a parenthesis. AP

The emotion behind a written sentence may be hard to discern because emotion is often conveyed through tone of voice, Nass said.

"What emoticons do is essentially provide a mechanism to transmit emotion when you don't have the voice," he explained.

In some ways, Nass added, emoticons also give people "the ability not to think as hard about the words they're using."

Stansifer said the emoticon was part of a natural progression in communication.

"I don't think the smiley face was the beginning and the end," he said. "All people at all times take advantage of whatever means of communication they have." *AP*

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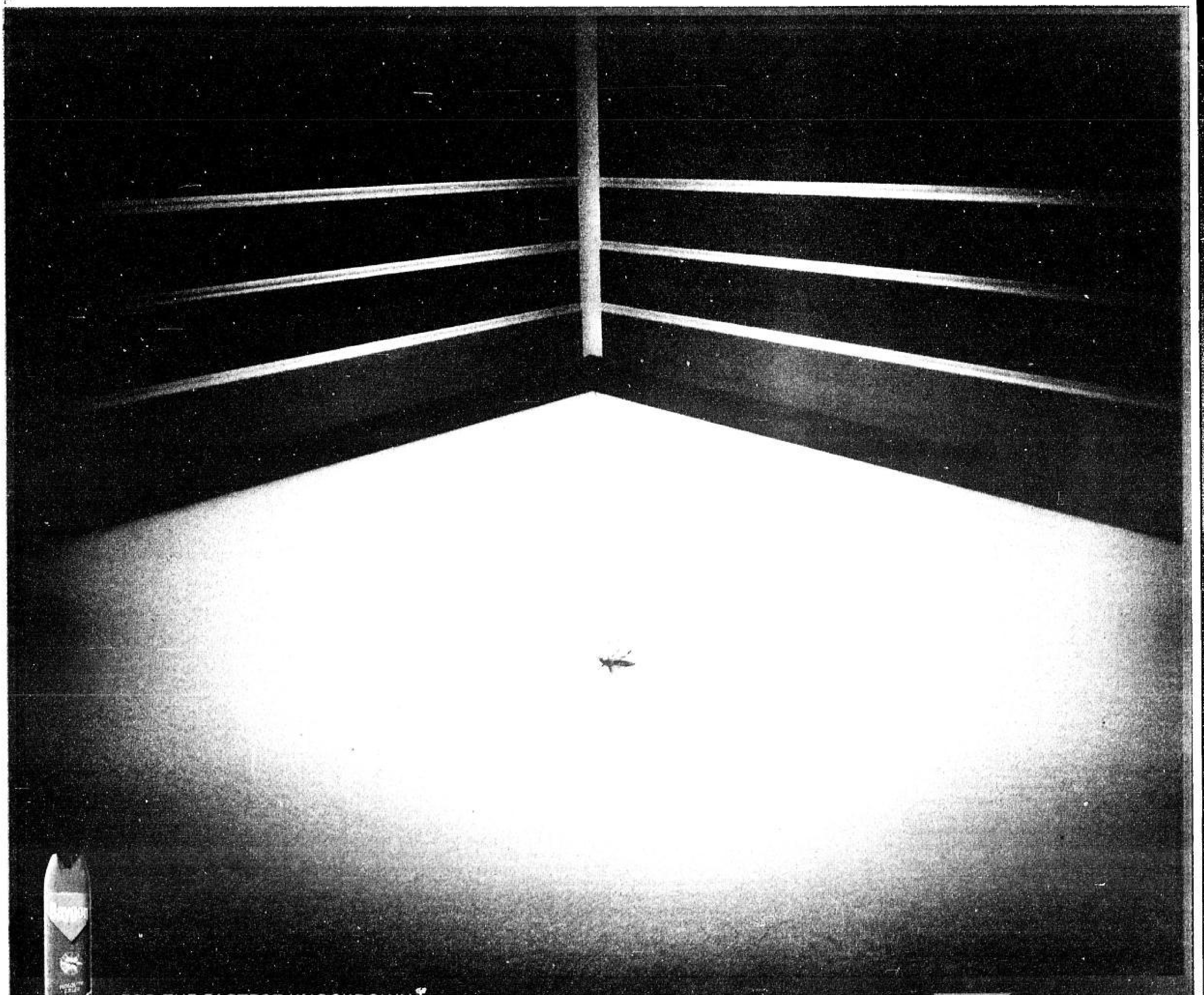

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Turning point

EDITORIAL

THE TESTIMONY OF BUSINESSMAN JOSE "JOEY" de Venecia III before the Senate on Tuesday and the testimony of three Cabinet secretaries before the same Senate committees yesterday define a true turning point in post-Edsa II politics. Beyond the all-consuming question of an unpopular President's continuing political survival, we face history's ruthless judgment: Do we ever learn?

The political sharks certainly smell blood in the water. But the red stain is wide and visible even from a distance. The wounds the Arroyo administration have sustained are real; whether they are deep enough to prove fatal will be determined in the next few weeks or so.

What do we know for certain?

The young De Venecia's testimony was, by and large, credible. Some inconsistencies exist, and the failure to mention the alleged "Back off!" encounter in his affidavit is problematic. But overall, with its sometimes gratuitous specificity, his testimony has the ring of truth.

As for his past drug use, what of it? And does Evangeline "Luli" Arroyo, President Macapagal-Arroyo's usually mild-mannered daughter, really want to start a whispering campaign about substance abuse among powerful families?

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's musings on human nature are absolute nonsense. As in the Estrada impeachment trial six years ago, Santiago again suggests that people—lawyers then, businessmen now—are motivated only by base greed or sheer self-interest. It may be that that is the world she lives in, but her world is not ours. Just because powerful figures are involved doesn't mean that big money is behind De Venecia's revelations, or that De Venecia, the son of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, is necessarily motivated by personal considerations alone. Indeed, considering the personal risk he has taken, De Venecia has already acted against his own best interests.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo's belated response to the young De Venecia's allegation that he had tried to intimidate him into backing out of the National Broadband Network project, as coursed through his lawyer Jesus Santos, sounds plausible. Apparently, in their version of events, Arroyo met the young De Venecia only by happenstance, and only for the first time, in the Wack-Wack clubhouse in mid-March this year, and only told him he shouldn't be involved in government projects, considering he was the Speaker's son. As we said, it sounds plausible, but it is hardly credible.

Many circumstances explain this lack of credibility, chief of these being the lack of corroboration from other statements issued by other alleged participants in that fateful meeting.

The divided loyalties of Speaker Jose de Venecia are understandable, but they have made him vulnerable; indeed, he has become the most vulnerable of all political players involved in the ZTE scandal. This is not to say that he has nothing to fight with, that he does not hold any cards of his own. But there is reason to believe that some of the blood in the water is his own.

The by-now-clearly-documented role of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos in the ZTE corporation's proposal for a national broadband network is incomprehensible—and truly reprehensible. He has denied his involvement, but he can no longer deny the unusual trips to China, the series of meetings with the young De Venecia, and now that alleged mid-March meeting with Arroyo. Of all officials involved in the ZTE scandal, he has the most to explain.

He is the official principally responsible for elections; what is he doing brokering billion-peso contracts during an election season?

We have long called for this disgraced and disgraceful official's resignation or impeachment. His involvement in the ZTE scandal is even more reason to repeat our call. But we are not unaware that, as the chief election official in the last three main elections, Abalos holds many secrets. We cannot imagine enough congressmen mustering the political courage to impeach him. We certainly cannot imagine him resigning. We will have to bide our time and wait for a plunder case to be filed against him.

While we wait, we will continue to be haunted by the essential question: When will we ever learn?

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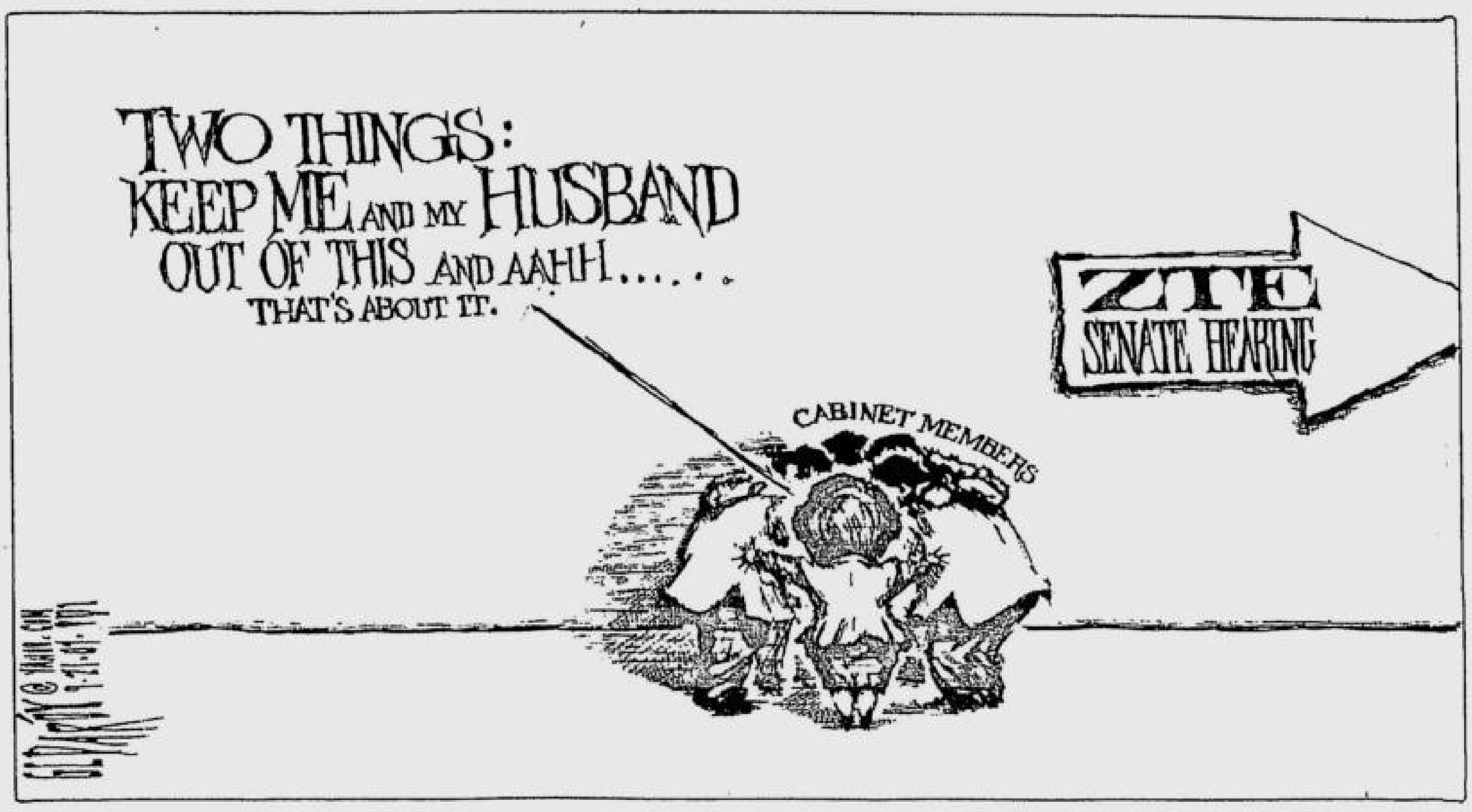

TWO THINGS: KEEP ME AND MY HUSBAND OUT OF THIS AND AAHH...... THAT'S ABOUT IT.
CABINET MEMBERS
ZTE SENATE HEARING

Greed in Batangas Port land case

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AS IF OVERPRICING GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, stealing from government coffers and cheating on taxes were not enough, Filipino citizens also overprice their properties when the government wants to expropriate them for public projects. No wonder the government is always impoverished.

Here is one outstanding example of unrestrained greed. Owners of land in Batangas that has a zonal valuation of only P298 to P440 per sq m want P8,000 per sq m because the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) wants to buy it to expand the Batangas port. Worse, the courts fixed the just compensation at P5,500 per sq m and ordered the PPA to pay up. If the PPA pays up, it would go bankrupt and close shop.

The PPA needs room to expand the Batangas port which, next to the Port of Manila, is the principal port in Luzon. But at P5,500 per sq m, the almost 130 hectares of surrounding land, mostly agricultural as aerial photos show, would cost P11.3 billion. The annual budget of the PPA, which operates 23 major shipping gateways and thousands of terminals all over the country, is only P4 billion. Thus, the cost of the new land will eat up its entire budget for three years.

What this means is that for the next three years, all ports operated by the PPA may cease to operate and deteriorate because there will be no money to repair and maintain them. There will be no money to dredge navigation channels to prevent marine disasters. And there will be no money to pay the more than 3,000 PPA employees all over the country. It will prevent the completion of all ongoing development projects in various ports and the PPA will not be able to remit to the national government the P2.4 billion expected cash dividends. Furthermore, it will prevent the PPA from paying its billion-peso loans to international and local creditors—and think of the negative impact that will have on the shipping industry and the economy.

On the other hand, only a small number of the original 231 lot owners and their lawyers will rake in billions of pesos. A number of lot owners have already disposed of their properties at P600 per sq m.

The PPA said that if the Supreme Court will not reconsider its decision, it would give up the expropriation as it cannot afford the cost. That means the Batangas port cannot expand and progress.

Expropriation proceedings for 185 lots started in October 1999. The PPA said it needed the lots for the development of Phase 2 of the Batangas Port Zone pursuant to two executive orders of then President Corazon Aquino. It alleged that the Land Acquisition Committee of the project recommended that the market value of the lots be fixed at P336.83 per sq m.

The lot owners, represented by three different law firms, asked the trial court to fix the just compensation at P8,000 per sq m. The court appointed a three-man commission to conduct hearings to determine the actual market value of the land. The commission recommended P4,800 per sq m. as expropriation price. The PPA said the price should be lower because the lands are agricultural and not being used for commercial or industrial purposes. Aerial photos show that they are indeed agricultural. The court-appointed commission submitted its second partial report reiterating its recommendation of P4,800 per sq m.

Nevertheless, the trial court issued on Aug. 15, 2000 an order fixing the fair market value at P5,500 per sq m and subsequently ordered the PPA to pay the lot owners. The PPA filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals and an appeal from the P5,500 market value set by the trial court. The Court of Appeals denied the consolidated petitions. The PPA went to the Supreme Court with a petition for certiorari.

Basing its decision on technicalities and not on the merits of the case, the Supreme Court denied the petition on Aug. 24, 2007. The PPA filed a motion for reconsideration last Sept. 6. To better serve the ends of justice, we urge the tribunal to look into the case more deeply.

* * *

I think we will discover more overpriced projects as the Arroyo administration winds down to 2010. In basketball lingo, this is its last two minutes and public officials, knowing they would be out of jobs and out of power in less than three years, are now providing for their future. What better and faster way to do that than to overprice projects.

The President cannot stop her subordinates from doing that because she is a lame-duck President. She is still in Malacañang only because of the support of her allies. If she cracks down on them, they can withdraw their support and where would she be? Look at what happened to former President Joseph Estrada. GMA knows that what she did to him can also be done to her. So she will just sit tight, please her allies and hope that she lasts until 2010.

In fact, it is possible she herself is thinking of providing for her future. She will need lots of money for lawyers when she is no longer President and plunder and graft cases are filed against her for the things she did while in office.

I hope not, but it is also possible she is the "mystery woman" behind the ZTE broadband case as her husband is the "mystery man." Circumstantial evidence points to that.

She flew all the way to China to witness the signing of the ZTE contract. Why? Obviously to show her support for the project. What was signed was allegedly "stolen" soon after. Why?

GMA did not order that the contract be reconstituted or that a copy be obtained from the Chinese. And in spite of a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court, she issued a statement that the Philippines would honor the contract which nobody but the signatories have seen.

The pieces of the puzzle are falling into place.

'Back off!': the new idiom of corruption

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THIRTY YEARS AGO, WE CELEBRATED SEPT. 21 as Thanksgiving Day, as declared by President Ferdinand Marcos. A whole nation backed down when told to back off, and ended up celebrating the first day of the dictatorship, the day martial law was proclaimed, to sing hallelujah for their chains.

Jose de Venecia III has implicated no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband as the "mystery man" who tried to bully him out of the National Broadband Network deal. Already De Venecia's life has been threatened and his phone bugged, and nasty personal innuendoes circulate. "Reformers" plot to oust his father as Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chief presidential legal counsel threatens him with jail—and reminds the Ombudsman of *its motu proprio* powers to investigate without waiting for a complainant—yes, the same Ombudsman who had to be prodded by the Supreme Court before it charged anyone—the small fry, mind you, not the big shots—in the Comelec computerization scam. And for a while, the government even claimed that the NBN contract was either lost or nonexistent!

The scale of the bribes purportedly offered and the crudeness of it all make it even more imperative to take a sober look at the policy issues, with none of the salacious charm of the konfrontasi at Wack-Wack but certainly just as telling. At an academic forum three weeks ago at the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies, Prof. Raul Fabella, former dean of the UP School of Economics, presented his paper "Lacking a backbone: The controversy over the 'National Broadband Network' and Cyber-education Projects," co-authored with his successor, Dean Emmanuel de Dios. It is available at http://www.aer.ph, the Action for Economic Reforms' website (which was recently hacked, by the way).

The NBN project with ZTE aims to build up our "information highway," the network of optic fiber linking the whole country and giving us access to the rest of the world. That "backbone" supports our telephone and cell-phone calls, our Internet access, the call centers, the processing of ATM and credit card payments. Right now, two such backbones are in place, both financed successfully by private investors, by PLDT and by the competitor telecoms. (Two moribund government-held backbones apparently exist as well.) NBN will build a third active network.

NBN is an abrupt reversal of the settled policy of public-private partnerships in "information infrastructure" that shifts the costs to private investors and spares government funds from that burden. Moreover, the project, originally priced at P5.1 billion, has now bloated to a whopping P19.3 billion—all this to offer a redundant service already performed by private capital on its own.

If the goal of NBN is to extend "connectivity" to rural Filipinos, the solution, Fabella and De Dios say, is not to build another backbone. By analogy, if far-flung barangays have no access to the main highways, the solution is not to build a new highway, but to build more farm-to-market roads. The "last mile" problem is best solved by smaller networks of country roads and wireless networks, the authors point out, as the recent Ramon Magsaysay awardee from Nepal, Mahabir Pun, accomplished with "spartan simplicity and [at] modest cost."

A second justification (an apparent afterthought) is that NBN will serve as the exclusive government network. The authors have done their own math, and the vaunted savings don't add up. Worse, an expensive government "backbone" doesn't make sense, considering that government offices face more basic problems. They don't have enough computers (by analogy, the vehicles by which to journey on the information highway) or don't have trained staff to make the best use of these "contraptions," as one dinosaur called them in my building here in Diliman.

Finally, the government is a tried and tested failure in running infrastructure, and that is why it has now privatized water, power and transport to deliver cheaper and more efficient services to the paying public. Its bureaucracy is simply too cumbersome, at its finest, and too corrupt, at its most venal, to keep technology modern and running. Conversely, government should instead make the most of its true advantage, its "procurement leverage" as a big buyer, in an industry where bulk use drastically lowers the seller's cost.

Without the De Venecia testimony, these weighty issues might not have ignited public outrage. Contrast that to the drama of the Erap trial, with the image of a *bayong* full of cold cash handcarried by thugs to the "lord of all *jueteng* lords." This time, the thievery is far more suave, and players threaten one another in *coño* English in chic places.

In the Philippines, there is a class divide even in the treatment of witnesses. The Erap trial flourished because of witnesses like the warlord Chavit Singson, who is a "Witness Protection Program" on his own, and the bank vice president Clarissa Ocampo, who has her own built-in credibility as a professional. In contrast, who remembers those witnesses against Malacañang in all the past scandals? The low-level minions have either recanted and apologized, or were shred to pieces like T/Sgt. Vidal Doble earlier this week.

And then the young De Venecia came, with all the advantages of both Chavit and Clarissa. Hence the vicious attacks on his character, because the NBN debate is at its core a battle for the hearts and minds of the Filipino public. The UP deans conclude: "The only backbone the government needs today is a moral one, not fiber optic but *fibre politique*."

The Ombudsman's motu proprio powers? "Cry 'Havoc,' and let slip the dogs of war, that this foul deed shall smell above the earth ...."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Proclamation 1081 recalled

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TODAY, FILIPINOS RECALL A BAD MEMORY. The proclamation of martial law 35 years ago did not come like a thief in the night. Newspapermen, especially our Malacañang and congressional reporters at The Manila Chronicle, of which I was editor in chief in September 1972, expected martial law to come any time. That it was in the works was the worst kept secret in a town awash with rumors.

The date of its announcement was falsified. So, when President Ferdinand Marcos appeared on TV at 7:15 p.m. on Sept. 23, Saturday, to announce the proclamation of martial law in his stentorian baritone, the announcement was anticlimactic. The proclamation was dated Sept. 21, Thursday.

Arrest orders of targets, including opposition figures and newspapermen, were served beginning at midnight of Sept. 22, Friday, straddling Sept. 23. In the first round of arrests, I received a phone call at home in Blue Ridge, Quezon City, from a close friend who said, "Martial law has been declared. Secretary (of Defense Juan Ponce) Enrile has been ambushed."

I told myself, "This it." I immediately rang the graveyard shift editor at the Chronicle. No one answered. I switched on radio and TV. They were all dead.

The Chronicle for Sept. 23 had been put to bed when I got the call. The issue never came out. The last issue of the Chronicle was dated, Thursday, Sept. 21. Its banner headline was: FM REPEATS SUBVERSION RAP; AQUINO HINTS LIQUIDATION. The main story reported that Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. accused Marcos of "preparing the ground for an administration plot to liquidate me" and later putting the blame on the communists.

From midnight of Friday, the first wave of arrests was carried out. Troops descended on all newspapers, padlocked them and nailed the proclamation dated Sept. 21. Marcos trumped Aquino and shocked the country with superb use of the element of surprise by manipulating the dates of the proclamation.

What went on behind the scenes when Marcos was pulling the strings of the events that were unfolding?

In his handwritten diaries, Marcos wrote on Sept. 22, Friday, this entry at 9:55 p.m.: "Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile was ambushed near Wack-Wack at about 8 p.m. tonight. It was a good thing he was riding in his security car as a protective measure. His first car, which he usually uses, was the one riddled by bullets from a car parked in ambush. He is now at his DND office and I have advised him to stay there. And I have doubled the security of Imelda (Marcos) in Nayon Pilipino where she is giving dinner to the UPI and AP as well as other wire services.

"This makes the martial law proclamation a necessity. Imelda arrived at 11:35 p.m. in my Electra bullet proof car to be told that Johnny had been ambushed. It is all over the radio.

"Congress is not adjourning tonight as the conference committee on Tariff and Customs Code could not agree on common version. They adjourn tomorrow."

On Sept. 23, Marcos wrote this entry at 12:20 p.m.: "Things have moved according to plans although out of the total 200 target personalities in the plan only 53 have been arrested, including the three senators, Aquino, Jose Diokno and Ramon Mitra and Chino Roces (publisher of The Manila Times) and Teddy (Teodoro Locsin Sr.), editor of the Philippines Free Press." Roces, Locsin, Max Soliven of The Manila Times, Napoleon Rama of the Free Press and Luis Mauricio of the Graphic were among the first to be arrested at midnight at their homes in the first round of arrests.

In the next few days, the gym of Camp Crame was filling up as more arrests were made, including leftist activists, officials branded as crooks and corrupt, and suspected smugglers. I was not seized in the first wave of arrests.

Johnny Mercado, Senate reporter of the Evening News and executive director of the Philippine Press Institute, whom Marcos hated intensely, and Luis Beltran, columnist of the Evening News, were among those rounded up in the second wave of the dragnet.

I went into hiding for a few days, until Rod Reyes, then executive vice president of the Chronicle, passed the word to me that Lt. Gen. Fidel Ramos, then chief of the Philippine Constabulary, had sent him the message that I and Ernie Granada, columnist of the Chronicle, would "be safer" if we would be put under his custody. Rod surrendered Ernie and me to Ramos. We joined the growing crowd at Camp Came.

On Sept. 23, Marcos wrote: "I was supposed to broadcast at 12 a.m. but technical difficulties prevented it. We had closed all TV stations. We had to clear KBC which broadcast it live. VOP and PBS (both government broadcasting stations) broadcast it by radio nationwide."

The finishing touches on the proclamation were readied two days before the proclamation. He wrote on Sept. 20 that after a meeting with Enrile, the general staff and chiefs of the major services, "they recommended the use of emergency powers including martial law." After the assessment of the state of public order, he gave an interview "where we kept silent on emergency powers."

"I was surprised to hear (Executive) Secretary (Alex) Melchor say he was now in favor of martial law although he was against it a year and a half ago. And all (Justice) Secretary Jose Abad Santos said was, 'Let us not talk about it publicly.'"

Marcos continued: "Johnny and I again reviewed the proclamation. He wrote out the orders on carrying firearms and control of shipping. Johnny Ponce Enrile, Gen. (unclear), Gen. Nanadiego, Kit Tatad and I with Piciong Taguiam doing the typing finished all the papers (the proclamation and the orders) today (Sept. 21) at 8 p.m."

Adventures in endoscopy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR SOME WOMEN PATIENTS IN THE GYNEcology ward of East Avenue Medical Center, a government hospital, the absence of a wound from an incision after a procedure is proving to be a status symbol of sorts. "*Asan ang sugat ko* (Where's my wound)?" the women often ask when they wake up from the procedure and don't see any stitches or scars, or, more important, feel hardly any pain.

And when the women are able to heal and recover faster, discharged from hospital earlier than other patients who underwent similar procedures, the other patients are the ones left wondering what it was these women had undergone.

What the women went through is most likely a procedure that falls under the term "endoscopy," which means "looking inside," usually with a camera attached to a flexible tube, that allows a doctor not only to see inside the body and take pictures but also to perform procedures such as biopsies or removal of tissues or tumors.

Endoscopy is a minimally invasive procedure, requiring for most procedures a small puncture to allow the tube entry. For procedures like a hysteroscopy, the endoscopic equivalent of a hysterectomy or surgical removal of the uterus, a puncture isn't even required, as the tube can be inserted through the vagina.

The advantages of endoscopy are fairly obvious, say officers and members of the Philippine Society of Gynecologic Endoscopy. "It is patient-friendly," says Dr. Delfin Tan, PSGE's founding president. "There is less pain, fewer complications, less chances of infection and adhesion (a consequence of abdominal surgery). The patient is able to recover faster, and for a working woman, that means less time off from work and family."

And yet we can safely say that few Filipino women are aware that there is an alternative to traditional surgery for most gynecologic disorders. Unless her doctor suggests it, or she already knows about it, a woman can hardly be expected to opt for endoscopy instead of surgery.

* * *

THE TROUBLE, says Dr. Tan, is that "not everybody, not every gynecologist, can perform endoscopy." Out of some 3,000 members of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS), only 4 percent, from 150-200, belong to PSGE. And if an ob-gyn does not know how to perform endoscopy, or doesn't even know about it, he or she isn't likely to endorse the procedure to a patient.

"There is a learning curve to hurdle," says Dr. Zaida Gamilla, a consultant at the UST Hospital. "It takes time to develop competence in the use of endoscopy, and until recently there was no local training available."

"And not everyone who trains in endoscopy will end up a good endoscopist," adds Tan. "You need to overcome first of all your fear of change, of the unfamiliar, and then develop patience as you gain competence in the procedure."

Endoscopy, he notes, "is a completely different form of surgery." For one thing, instead of cutting into a patient and seeing the insides directly, a surgeon works with a probe, using a monitor to show the way and handling miniaturized instruments.

"It's like you're playing video games," admits Dr. German Tan Cardoso, a consultant with East Avenue. "With endoscopy, hand-eye coordination is very important."

* * *

ANOTHER factor hampering the increased use of endoscopy is cost. A basic unit, including the probe and monitor, costs about P5 million and, depending on other required attachments, may total P10 million.

"Most private hospitals will hesitate to invest such a huge amount on technology unless they're sure they can recover the costs," remarks Dr. Tan. While charges vary from hospital to hospital, and depends on the type of procedure, on average, an endoscopic procedure costs about P200,000. At East Avenue, however, a patient cleared for endoscopy can avail of it for only P10,000, the subsidized cost made possible by an arrangement between the manufacturer/supplier and the hospital, with the machinery "on loan" on condition that East Avenue doctors use it to train other doctors.

Another requirement which can drive up costs is that a surgeon/endoscopist needs to work with a team: an anesthesiologist (the required type of anesthesia also makes the procedure expensive), a technician, a nurse and an assisting surgeon, all of whom need to be trained as well in endoscopy.

Dr. Gamilla bemoans the frequent turnover of trained nurses: "Almost as soon as I have trained one nurse on the procedure, I lose her to a job abroad and have to train another one all over again!"

* * *

BUT even if the ob-gyn or the entire medical community in the Philippines suddenly wakes up and discovers the wonders of endoscopy, "we would still be left behind by the rest of the world," says Dr. Tan Cardoso. Not only has endoscopy been accepted and popularized in other countries, including our neighbors like Singapore, he says, in developed countries, surgeons have already discovered robotics, performing procedures while guiding mechanized "surgeons," or performing them even from a remote location.

Dr. Tan Cardoso himself has "shocked" the gynecology-oncology community by demonstrating how endoscopy can be used for the treatment and management of cancers, "something that just wasn't done before," says Dr. Gamilla.

Indeed, if only doctors are more willing "to open new perspectives in their work," says Dr. Gamilla, who knows how much farther we can go with endoscopy?

But the biggest factor in making endoscopy more available to Filipino women, say the doctors, are the women themselves. "If more women knew about it and asked their doctors about it, then more of us would invest in training and equipment, and more women could avail themselves of endoscopy's advantages."

Ateneo's Rizal Library

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THEY SAY THAT IF YOU ASK A FISH TO DEScribe its surroundings, the last thing it will describe will be the water.

We also tend to ignore our surroundings and it is only recently that I have re-discovered the Rizal Library of the Ateneo de Manila University that has changed so much since I used it as a college student two decades ago. I don't know why I overlooked the library for so long. Since it is literally within spitting distance from my office window, I wouldn't have had to travel elsewhere to do research for pleasure or for this column.

In the past month, I have begun to explore research centers for fresh material. I visited the National Library to see its newly inaugurated section, which contains the papers of Ferdinand Marcos that may yet provide new ways of looking at the Marcos years. Then there is the Lopez Museum that has a very dynamic exhibition program that gives readers in its signature collection of Filipiniana a respite from research. In years past, there was just the static collection of Rizaliana papers and artifacts that supplemented its famous collection of paintings by Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo on display. I seemed to be the only one interested to see these things more than once, but now that they have asked young artists to give us a contemporary look at these old masters, the galleries have become quite modern, very contemporary.

Closer to work is the University of the Philippines Main Library in Diliman that I visited to survey the various papers in its archives. After I got my first UP faculty library card 19 years ago, I spent whole mornings in the Filipiniana section going through the stacks looking at books individually shelf by shelf to survey the landscape and found materials I did not even know existed. There were huge dusty scrapbooks in the periodicals section that provided materials arranged by topic. It was there that I read so many obscure but engaging articles on Rizal. I could only groan and imagine if these scrapbooks had not been compiled and one had to dig up all these periodicals in search of the national hero.

The Rizal Library occupies the same white seemingly window-less building that I frequented as an undergraduate student. It now has an annex that used to be called the [Josephine] "Bracken Wing" because, as some wags used to say, "*nakakabit kasi sa* Rizal Library." Even then I was already interested in Filipiniana and gained a bit of a reputation after I did a term paper on Nora Aunor that required going over a decade of *komiks* and movie magazines. The librarians gave me a knowing look whenever they saw me, betraying either their loyalty to Nora or Vilma Santos and not knowing that I was not interested in the person. Rather I was studying the behavior of fans who made a cult over a blonde walking doll called Maria Leonora Theresa that they hoped and imagined to be the daughter of Nora and her on-screen beau Tirso Cruz III. Even then, I couldn't imagine the fanaticism that made a doll a holy relic which they showered with gifts, toys, fan mail and money!

When I visited the Filipiniana periodicals section this week, I noticed that they had current items, from the *sosyal* Philippine Tatler to old favorites like Weekend Magazine, the Sunday supplement of the defunct Philippines Daily Express where I began my writing career deadline racing with Ricky Lo. This time I was not half as excited over popular magazines and I pored over defunct academic journals like the Journal of East Asiatic Studies. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that they also have an online index to Philippine periodicals that lists all my INQUIRER columns from the year 2000 or even earlier. This will save me the trouble of listing all my published work.

The Filipiniana section is still in the same place, though the collection is larger and the staff has correspondingly grown bigger. When I used to frequent the place, I knew where I could find the books I needed even without looking. Even today the librarians would laugh when I ask for a book, describing its size, shape and color. I would even give a hint to its location by saying upper or lower shelf, but today the books keep shifting so you have to use the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) that can be consulted from anywhere in the world, thus preparing one for a physical visit to the library.

Checking out books does not mean having to fill out a library card and the yellow cards in brown envelopes at the inside back cover of the books anymore. They swipe your ID and scan barcodes very much as they do in grocery check-out counters. One wonders where the old yellow cards were placed because in them we have the signatures of previous borrowers, some of them eminent like Horacio de la Costa, Doreen Fernandez, Rolando Tinio and Gilda Cordero Fernando.

The library also houses more than books. There are glass cases filled with pre-historic Philippine earthenware as well as porcelain from China, Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, which prove that we had some link to inter-island trade long before Magellan sailed into our shores. I will leave comment on the Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera Collection and the American Historical Collection for a future column, but I think I must use this resource more.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

September's heroes

EVERY DAY WE'RE BOMBARDED WITH NEWS ABOUT scams and scoundrels, making me wonder if perhaps we might end up glorifying these forms of low life. September is particularly problematic as we remember Ferdinand Marcos (whose birthday was on the 11th) and martial law (declared on Sept. 23 but commemorated on Sept. 21 because of Marcos' belief in magical numbers).

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Now the Constantino Foundation, set up by the family for the late nationalist historian Renato Constantino, is offering a new take on September through a project called "Reclaiming Public Space, Recapturing Memory." Today, the foundation is turning over murals produced by the art group TutoK to the Makati and San Juan city governments, both with nationalist themes and with the intent of reminding the public about two often forgotten Filipino heroes. One mural, "Biyaheng Kasarinlan," will be installed at Ospital ng Makati at 10:30 this morning while "Daluyong" will be unveiled at 1:30 this afternoon at the San Juan City Hall.

Red Constantino sent me a rough study of the murals and a description which tells me the murals are going to be quite educational in an innovative way. Here's a hint: The road to independence in Makati's mural will include an electric jeep and Macario Sakay commandeering a horse. The San Juan mural will have Lean Alejandro in conspiratorial whispers with Emilio Jacinto.

Most readers would recognize Emilio Jacinto's name, but Lean Alejandro and Macario Sakay are not as well known, which is why the Constantino Foundation is pushing for public space to bring forth the unsung heroes of our times.

Rebel barber

Lean Alejandro is, to some extent, still remembered, having been a very visible youth activist during the martial law era, with the University of the Philippines as his base. He was assassinated in 1987, barely a year after the Marcos dictatorship was overthrown, by still unknown gunmen, although it's widely believed he was wiped out by Right-wing forces who were worried about the return of democracy to the Philippines. Lean was only 27.

I wanted to write more about Macario Sakay, who jumped into public awareness all too briefly a few years back with the movie "Sakay," but has since receded from our minds. I was shocked at how little there was in the mass media about his 100th death anniversary last week, Sakay having been executed by the Americans on Sept. 13, 1907.

On the other hand, the silence about Sakay isn't surprising, given the way history is written by the victors. I did find two articles on the Internet (do a search using "Sakay" combined with authors "Paul Flores" and "Joseph Scalice") that offer intriguing glimpses into Sakay's life, showing him to be truly a hero for our times. (Do a google search using "Sakay" combined with author "Paul Flores," then another with "Joseph Scalice".)

We know he was born in 1870 in Tondo, but we don't have an exact birthday. Sakay was his mother's surname, which suggests he was born out of wedlock. He worked as a tailor, a barber and an actor in the *comedia* and *moro-moro*. He joined the Katipunan and belonged to the faction of Andres Bonifacio and Emilio Jacinto, organizing cells in what is Rizal province today.

After the Americans occupied the Philippines, Sakay moved briefly into legal politics as secretary of the Nacionalista Party, but the Americans passed an Anti-Sedition Law which effectively banned such political parties. Sakay went underground again, was captured in June 1902 but released a month later under an amnesty. Not surprisingly, he returned to guerrilla war, fighting not just the Americans but against Filipinos who he felt had been bought. Together with other guerrillas, he established the Republika ng Katagalugan. Sakay's use of "Tagalog" continued a tradition started by Andres Bonifacio, who preferred the term to "Filipinas" and "Filipino" used by Emilio Aguinaldo and his elite republican forces. Sakay, as president of the Republika ng Katagalugan, issued a proclamation in May 1902 declaring that the country, to include "Jolo, Mindanao, Kabisayaan, Kailokohan," would be called "Kapuluang Katagalugan", the Tagalog Archipelago.

Sakay remained in the hills, with support from the local population, and was able to expand their operations to Cavite and Batangas. Sadly, with the help of Filipinos, the Americans were able to trick Sakay to come down from the hills with a promise that he and his soldiers would be granted amnesty and given a chance to work, through an assembly, toward independence. Sakay enjoyed freedom for 13 days, before he was arrested, tried and executed, under the Brigandage Act, a law that ostensibly was against banditry but targeted more political acts.

It is not surprising that Sakay appeals to artists. This barber turned rebel was a non-conformist in many ways. Yes, as he was depicted in the movie, Sakay did grow his hair long, as did his followers, which was considered quite odd in his time. The documents of the Republika ng Katagalugan were also quite direct in their criticism of the Filipino elite and the lack of unity because of their desire for "silver and wealth."

'Loob'

The Tagalog Republic was also clear with its egalitarian views, envisioning a society where no one would be considered better than the other by virtue of skin color, wealth or education. I think the Tagalog version is even more eloquent: "*Sino mang tagalog tungkol anak dito sa Kapuluang Katagalugan, ay walang itatangi sino man tungkol sa dugo gayon din sa kulay ng balat ng isa't isa; maputi, maitim, mayaman, dukha, marunong at mangmang lahat ay magkakapantay na walang higit at kulang. . .*"

Sakay called for unity in a very Tagalog way—*magkaisa ang loob*—an inner unity of the self, and yet transcending one's selfish and sectarian interests.

Sakay's story resonates today for a nation that claims political independence and yet is titillated when America's president calls out to our president, "Hey Gloria." We remain a people divided, our minds and bodies hostaged by dreams of leaving the country. Reading about the Brigandage Act reminded me of our current Antiterrorism Law.

Sakay resonates even beyond our borders. I smiled while reading that Sakay's arms and ammunition often came from the Americans, courtesy of the colonizers' *muchachos* (servants). It's not surprising that the Americans today, in Iraq, face a similar problem, their arms finding their way to Iraqi "terrorists."

Today we have buildings and highways named after American colonial officials. The Marcos name has been appended on the national highway and on a state university, and many more major streets are named after him and a bevy of politicians that Sakay would call traitors. There is not a single street in the country, as far as I know, that is named after Sakay. A mural in Makati is a good start at reclaiming public spaces for heroes of our times.

Plea for elitist justice

IN RECOMMENDING PARDON OR AMNESTY for former President Joseph Estrada, national security adviser Norberto Gonzales, other high officials of government, the Catholic Church and "civil society" are advocating "elitist justice." Under this kind, there is one law for the rich and another for the poor.

There are thousands of "Jean Valjeans" in our prisons who serve out the full length of their sentences for stealing just a few hundred pesos or just some loaves of bread to feed their children who are hungry, or just to be able to buy medicine for their sick family members. Their basic crime, of course, is poverty.

But if you are a prominent or wealthy person, a former congressman or governor, or the son of such persons, you are pardoned long before your time is up.

In the case of Erap, he has been found guilty of "plundering" hundreds of millions of pesos. But that is not all. He was guilty of "betraying the public trust," of deceiving the millions of people who had voted for him because they believed he was as honest and heroically devoted to the interests of the poor and the oppressed, like the character he had depicted in his movies.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's apologia for Erap, that he had not been found guilty of stealing "public funds," should not mitigate his crime. The *jueteng* loot he pocketed came from the countless poor, the millions who spent their hard-earned money to watch his movies, and who out of sheer desperation and hopelessness shelled out their last soiled pesos in the hope of winning a prize, only to be cheated by the gambling operators protected by their idol. And to add insult to injury, Erap used this protection money to fund his luxurious lifestyle and that of his mistresses. It is horrendously hypocritical for the religious and political lords who have condemned the jueteng lords to beg pardon for Erap.

The truth is, our social elite believe they are superior people who are privileged and beyond the pale of law. Contrary to his flicks, Erap also belongs to the elite as his family, which is Spanish-speaking, is upper class.

The masses were fooled but the lack of mass support for Erap after his conviction showed that they have not stayed fooled.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

Napocor on IPP rates and 'failed' privatization

WE WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO THE power industry issues raised by Meralco in Neal Cruz's Sept. 10 column.

1. Napocor and Meralco IPP (independent power producer) rates.

Meralco's average cost of power purchased from its IPPs and from the National Power Corp. cannot be fairly compared directly. Meralco buys power from its IPPs on first priority basis, for continuous use and on long-term, guaranteed take-or-pay basis. Conversely, Meralco buys Napocor power for specific, "non-continuous" use. For the period cited in Meralco's response to Cruz's column, Meralco's purchases from Napocor were 80 percent for peak hours (hence, more expensive at an average price of P5.5830/kWh); and only 20 percent of cheaper, off-peak power at P1.9482/kWh—resulting in the average cost of P5.1869 for the month of July 2007.

As a result of Meralco's bilateral contract with its IPPs, the latter are enjoying plant utilization factors ranging from 85 to 95 percent, while Napocor plants are used only 50 to 60 percent. Additionally, WESM statistics show that while the Meralco IPPs contribute only 18 percent to the installed capacity in the Luzon grid, it enjoys a 35 percent share of the energy sales volume.

In the interest of reducing the generation charge, Napocor is willing to sign guaranteed bilateral contracts with Meralco on the same terms applied to Meralco IPPs at a maximum price of only P3.65/kWh, or 10 percent lower than the claimed P4.17/kWh of First Gas Sta. Rita, P3.79/kWh of FGP San Lorenzo, and the lowest P3.76/kWh of Quezon Power.

2. Privatization of Napocor generation assets.

Napocor does not have control of and neither has it any say in the privatization of its generation assets which are now under the ownership of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), as mandated by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira). Accusations that Napocor is sabotaging the country's privatization are unfair, misplaced and totally untrue.

For now, Napocor's role is to assure the continued supply of power while the privatization program is being implemented. It is limited only to the operation and maintenance of unsold generation assets, and to the continuing provision of fuel supply as required by its IPP contracts.

The failure of past privatization efforts (of the 600-MW Calaca Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant and the delay in the 640-MW Masinloc Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant) were more the result of the lack of bidders due to the absence of long-term power supply agreements that need to be attached to the power assets. The transition supply contracts that are currently allowed by the Epira are apparently not long enough for genuine IPPs. Eventually, after resolving these issues, Masinloc was successfully bid out, and at a good price, while Calaca is now scheduled for bidding.

—DENNIS S. GANA,
manager, Corporate Communications,
National Power Corporation

Unfair headline and reporting?

DURING THE FIRST THREE months of the trial of my case, the prosecution had done its worst and fulfilled all its evil designs. My constitutional rights were brutally violated; grave abuse of discretion, extreme haste and complete disregard of judicial courtesy were committed by the authorities.

I realize that competition for the most sensational news helped the prosecution in pillorying me. But I was hoping that after the court ruled there was no sufficient evidence against me, the situation would change.

Unfortunately, it did not, at least in view of the INQUIRER's Aug. 22 story on the latest development regarding my case in court.

The headline of that story read, "Prosecution, defense junk plea bargain in Leviste aide killing." This was unfair, for several reasons. First, the latest development in the case is that the court junked the prosecution's motion for reconsideration seeking to recall my right to bail. Second, I did not seek a plea bargain, to begin with, so the prosecution could not have "junked" it.

The reports that came out on the same day in other newspapers were more fair and accurate. For instance, the Malaya headlined the story as "Court denies DOJ bid to revoke Leviste's bail." Manila Standard reported "Leviste bail bond holds." The Manila Times reported "RTC junks DOJ vs Leviste petition."

I have always held the INQUIRER in high esteem for its objectivity and fairness, which I still believe to be in accordance with its editorial policy. I do not seek special favor—only that the truth be reported fairly and objectively.

The case is still in progress. There will be more developments. I hope the succeeding reports in the INQUIRER will be treated more fairly.

—J. ANTONIO LEVISTE

My report never implied that the defense had sought a plea bargain; in fact, based on my interview with the lawyers, I said both the defense and prosecution did not want it. The fact that my news angle differed from the other papers does not make the story any less fair and accurate.

—DJ YAP,
reporter, Inquirer

'Super-plunder' dwarfs Erap's guilt

THE MAIN REASON THE GREAT majority of the Filipino people is not taking seriously the guilty verdict on Joseph Estrada is not that Estrada is not guilty; it is that his guilt is overshadowed by the incumbent First Family's monstrous and incomparable guilt of "super-plunder."

—JOSE JACINTO,
1134 Clifton Ave.,
Clifton, NJ 07012, USA

Dark past sliding fast into the future

MANUEL L. QUEZON III's COLumn titled "Marcos in retrospect" (INQUIRER, 9/17/07) was really interesting. It brought back the sad memories of the past Marcos years of terror, and of the days of my youth way back in the 1960s and 1970s.

I was about 10 or 12 years old when Quezon's late grandfather, together with his secretary Jorge Vargas, visited the newly built hospital in my hometown in Binalbagan, Negros Occidental.

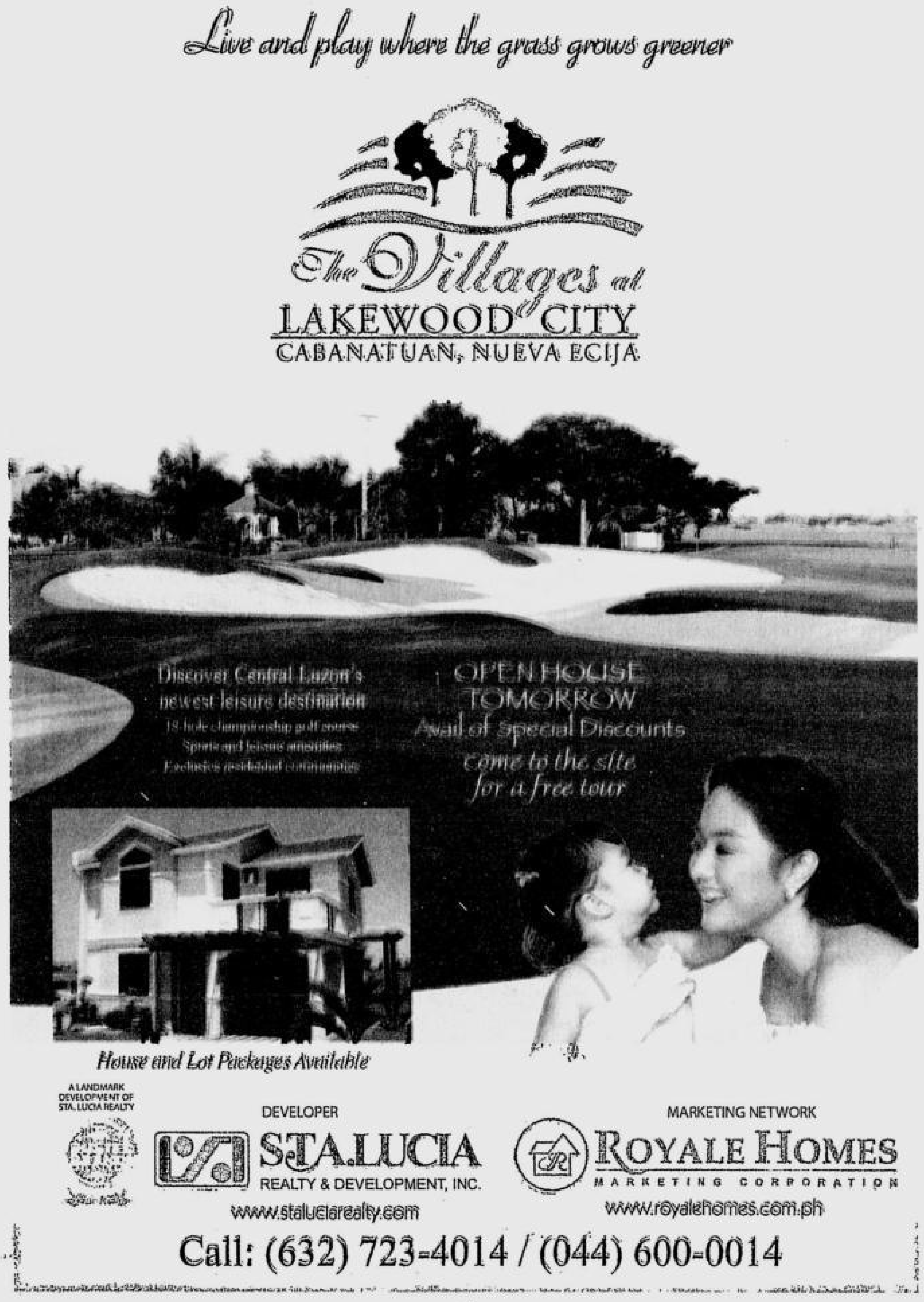
He was all "dignity." He was a commanding figure, wearing knee-length boots and jacket befitting a president. He was my hero.

I am 82 years old now and I am disappointed in how our beloved country seems to be sliding toward a situation where killing, rape, robbery, kidnapping and bombing are an everyday occurrence, while politicians are running the government as if it were solely their own and not the people's. Enriching themselves while in office seems to be our politicians' obsession. Nepotism is one cause of the breakdown of law and order in our country.

In the very near future, we shall see barangays, towns, cities in the hands of warlords not much different from those in Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq, where the politicians and the members of their families, protected by a private army loyal only to them, lord it over the people.

Need I say more? Can't we do something to stop political dynasties? Or is it too late?

—L.A. MARCIAL,
lamarcial000@yahoo.com.ph



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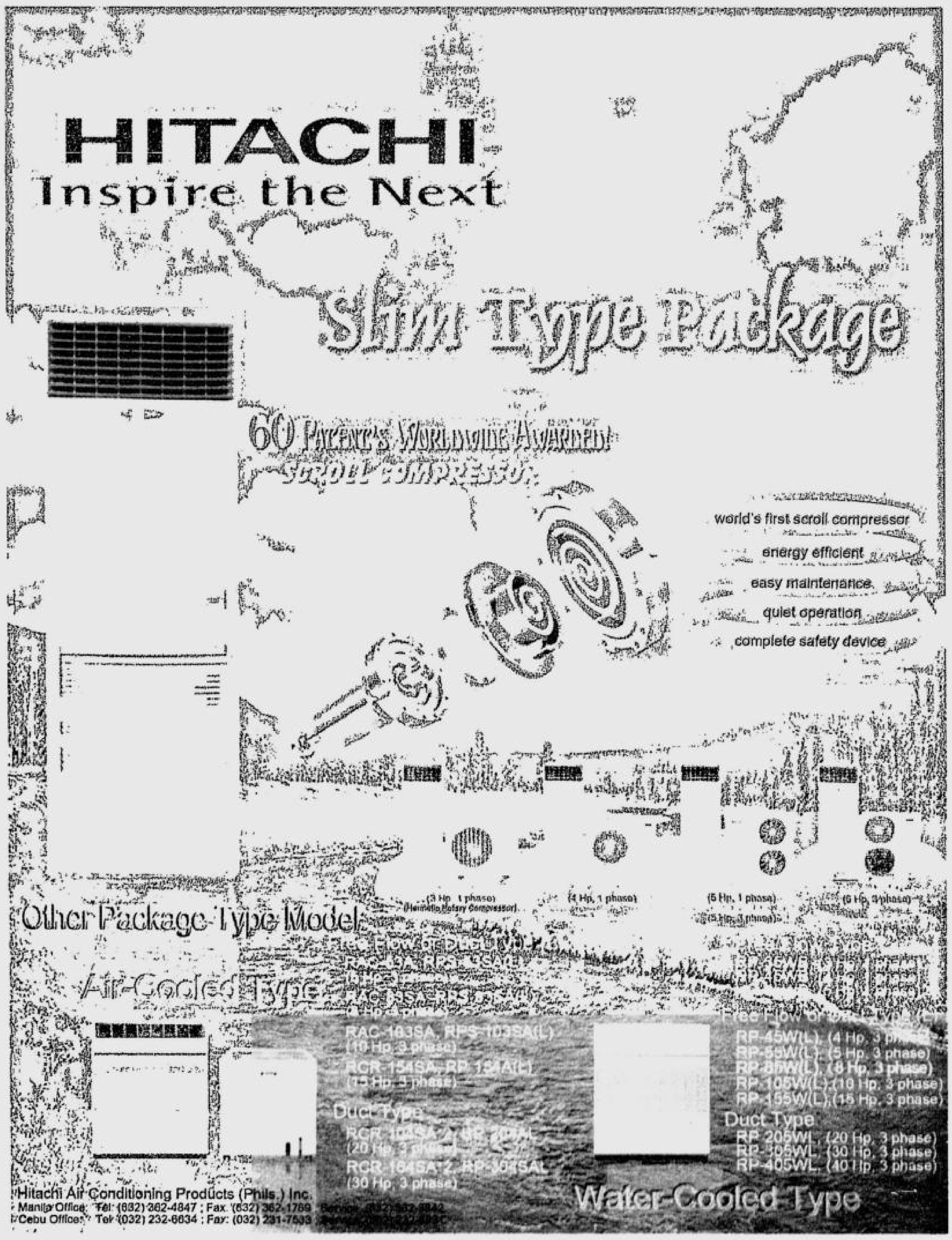

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Spate of motorbike accidents alarms DOH

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) yesterday expressed alarm over the growing mortality rate in motorcycle accidents in the country, the highest, it pointed out, among motor vehicles.

In a Forum on Road Safety for Motorcycle Riders held yesterday morning in Quezon City, Undersecretary for Health Operations Dr. Ethelyn Nieto said, "We should already be alarmed by the statistics."

Nieto called attention to records of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Traffic Operations Center Metropolitan Road Safety Unit, which said that from January to December 2006, motorcycles "have the highest fatality accident rate with 122 motorcycles involved or 23.60 percent of the total fatal accidents, followed by cars with 113 total or 21.86 percent."

Nieto also cited statistics from the Traffic Management Group (TMG), which said that out of the 14,202 traffic accidents in 2004, 3,010 or 21 percent, involved motorcycles. The numbers rose the following year to 24 percent or 2,798 out of 11,425 accidents.

"In the first two months of 2006 alone, the TMG recorded a total of 485 motorcycle accidents out of the total 1,364 accidents which accounted for 35 percent of total traffic accidents," the report said.

Taken for granted

Nieto said that the implementation of safety precautions for motorcycle riders had been taken for granted even in the face of Land Transportation Office records from 2004 to 2006 which disclosed that motorcycles currently ranked third in motor vehicle registration next to cars.

"Unless we do something, the fatalities (in motorcycle accidents) could double by 2020," Nieto said.

The undersecretary proposed a review of existing policies particularly that on helmet use as the most effective solution to reduce fatalities in motorcycle accidents.

She said that the DOH and the World Health Organization (WHO) were promoting the use of helmets through a multi-sector approach. "Road safety is a must with 3.5 million motorcycles in the country," Nieto said.

She said that the leading causes of motorcycle accidents included the absence of safety equipment, overloading, over speeding and reckless driving, as when motorcycle riders wove in and out of traffic.

Vital to safety

The use of helmets, Nieto said, was vital to road safety, adding that the head and neck of a motorcycle rider needed to be protected. She also said that an increase in motorcycle visibility and enhanced motorist awareness could save lives.

For his part, Dr. Soe Nyunt-U, WHO Representative in the Philippines, said: "Next to assault, road traffic crashes are the second leading cause of injury death for all ages. Studies have shown that motorcyclists are the second most vulnerable road-user group next to pedestrians."

"Wearing a helmet is the single most effective way of reducing head injuries and fatalities resulting from motorcycle and bicycle crashes. Motorcyclists who do not wear helmets are at a much higher risk of sustaining head injuries and from dying from these injuries," the WHO representative said.

He proposed the introduction of legislation making helmet use obligatory and the launching of widespread education campaigns for both the members of the community and traffic enforcers. He suggested that the government could provide incentives and reduce disincentives, such as subsidies and exemptions of helmets from taxes, to encourage helmet use.

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CHARITY L. RIVERA
JERALD G. VILLA
ALYSSA DANIELLE L. MORALES
DAVID LANCE D. DE JESUS
JUDY DIMAYA
RACHELLE ESPINO
PAOLO T. LIM
MARY GRACE URBANO
ELNA M. BROQUEZA
REA L. LAPIRA

SOUTH LUZON
ABBIE KEITH BALAGAO
NILA AMANTE
KRISTINE E. ZAMORA
ARIANNE ALMODOVAR
JOYCE CHEN D. REYNO
MARIA CATALINA SORIANO
JECCA FESTIYO
MARJERIE A. GUEVARRA
ANJANES ARLEGUEE
ARIANNE MAE MONROYO

VISMIN
MECHELLE ANDRADA
CHESKA MAE JAINAR
ANNE LYSSETH AGOCEJO
MARY ANN COLLADA
ANIEMHAR CUADRASAL
GILBER CLYVE TUMULAK
LEUR JAN V. REMO
KIM RAVE F. CAPITO
IVY ROSE CAGAIS
CHRISTINE CENA

3RD Prize - NOKIA CELLPHONE

GMA
ELENA B. RAYOS
DYAN BLUE V. CIPIRIANO
ATHEA ASTRID ALDANA
NIKKY P. GICO
BEVERLY ANNE G. IGNACIO
CHERYL B. CARRANCEJA
JENNY JEAN CONCURSO
ANNABEL E. DIONISIO
MARY ROSE V. HUE
JASON CARLO CARRANCEJA
MARK ANTHONY S. LOPEZ
MICHAEL P. LASCANO
MARIBELLE D. ROBILLO
RUBELYN C. TALAMOR
MIKAELA ANDREA CONCORDIA

NORTH LUZON
RUTH CLAIRE G. BUSTOS
ANGELICA A. PINEDA
JAN SHALOM M. SILVESTRE
ALLEN CANLAS
LANA ALENE LOZANO
NICOLE A. COQUIA
MARIFEL ANNE NARCISO
JALFRED F. MANARANG
ANGEL ANNE FLORES
RICHELLE ANNE RAMOS
ZARINA AUBREY DELA CRUZ
MARIA CRISTINA ROSARIO
RIZA D. LAUS
JUSTIN MARIE VILLAMIL
BOB HARVEY RENNOS

SOUTH LUZON
MICHELLE MONROYO
SHEILA MAY MONALO
MA.CRISTINA MACALALAD
JONNA CREUS
IRENE ANTIMARO
ROSE ANN REAÑO
ZEUS LEANDER ARGUELLES
MARK JUMALIE E. CASTILLO
CARLO M. GARCIA
TRISHIA ANN B. VERDERA
MA.PATRICIA MONROYO
MAR JOHN CRUZ
MIKE M. DE JESUS
JONATHAN G. VARGAS
ANTONIO L. AQUINO JR.

VISMIN
MEBELLE B. BATAC
FRANCIS NOVY YULAR
MEDEL ANDRADA
JOANNA MARIE B. NACIONAL
NEPTHALIE S. GADOR
RONA AQUINO
RESSA LORRAINE DAMASO
MARK ANGELO ANDRADA
JOHANNES ELAINE LOMOLJO
ALEXIS JANE LLAGAS
MARY ANDREA ANDRADA
MYLES RANDALL DELA ROSA
RUELETTE V. REMO
MICHAEL JOHN NACIONAL
JANICE MABUAL

Consolation Prize - GIFTPACK WORTH P 500

GMA
JANICE QUIZON LICADA
NAZARRA CHRISTIA R. LAUREL
DSPCORP NICOLE C. DIZOR
BEVERLY S. TORRES
ARIANE BISCAN
DEA T. PENARADA
PATRICIA MAE ENGADA
JANELLE ABBY TRINIDAD
KING ANGEL DAMIAS
RAVEN DEL ROSARIO
GLADYS MAY LAPUZ
STEPHEN BARICUATRO
ZOLTAN SOLOMON TAGUIBAO
MARJHOLEN TEYES
ANNE BELLE THERESE CHAN
ORLANDO BARICUATRO
RAIZA KAMILLE BESA
ANGELICA O. BALAONG
JEFFREY A. BARLISO
REIN JOHN D. NALAM
RAMIS C. LABRAGUE
JOHN CARLO C. TIBUEN
ALVIN B. CARRANCEJA
MARYNHIL CABALATAN
CHERY ROSE PUNZALAN
ROSEMARIE RODRIGUEZ
CATHERINE CINCO
RANVER DEINLA
AMELITA MATA
RECCA NUMBADA
JOEDI BOY REPOSO
CHAIZZE DAOSA
NICOLE ANN ATIENZA
ALYANDRA MATA
GEMARIE L. JABON
MONICA O. BALAONG
JEFFERSON C. TIBUENO
LHORLYN A. ENOC
GENEVIEVE B. JORILLO
SAMANTHA KATE GALDO
OMAR B. VELASQUEZ
SYMON DUMPIT
MA.CLARISSA DELA CRUZ
ANGELICA HERBOLINGO
REGINA DEINLA
MARICEL DAYOG
MA. EUNICE BOLAÑOS
CZARINALYN OBING
MARY ROSE NUIDA
JANSEN BORDAN

NORTH LUZON
MAUI DARRYL DOCTOR
MELISSA JOY LIWANAG
ABIGAIL NACAR
JISELLE CANOZA
VERNA CANLAS
SHARMAINE JOY DUMALE
GRACE LOPEZ
AIZELYN DOMINIQUE FERMIN
CHARISH CAPITO
MIA ANDREA AVELINO
JOSEPHINE ALCAZAR
RAZZA DAWN ANGELI DAVID
JOHN ERICK BIANTA
MARC JOSEPH CABRERA
CHRISTIAN JOSEPH CORTEZ
RODEZZA VARGAS
RICHARD CORTEZ
KIER DOMINIC PABUSTAN
RICHARD GARCIA
MICHELLE DANE DOCTOR
ROSELL ROMAREZ
HAROLD MANGUNE
MARY GRACE REYES
BABYROSE ARABACA
BENJIE ARABACA
EDUARD DIMACALI
MICHELLE SANGALANG
SHANICE TAN
CHARLENE CORTEZ
MARVIN VILLANUEVA
RONNIE TUBAT
TRICIA SHANE DIMACALI
ELAINO ERQUEZA
MA. VERONICA VALENCIA
AMOR FERNANDEZ
SAMANTHA GOPEZ
ALLYSSA GOPEZ
RUSCHELLE ANN DURAN
MARITES MACAPAGAL
HERBERT MANGUNE
RHONA VILLENA
ALDIN VICTOR DAVID
MERIE MAE MANALESE
BRYAN KHYLE RAGUDO
HANNAH DE VERA
CHARIE JABILLES
TARYLL ROSALES
IRENE GAIL MANALOTO
SHERRY JOY FERNANDEZ
RAYMOND CORTEZ

SOUTH LUZON
MA. SHAYNE GALE
REX CELERIO
JANICA MARIE TABUZO
AMADOR SIMANDO III
ENRIQUE ASIS III
LARA KRYZZA VERGARA
MA. JENNIFER VILLENA
KEITH GUEVARRA
SARAH AZUCENA
COLEEN DELA PENA
JAZMINE BARRETTO
MICHAEL ADRIAN VILLALOBOS
COLLEEN MILHAELA PAMATIAN
MA. KIMBERLY CASTIL
ERICKA RUCEL UMBAL
GRACE CATINDOY
ERICK RYAN PEREZ
RIZA JANE DIONES
JHOANNA JOYCE FAUNI
JERIC BAYALAN
RENE ADOR
GLORIA NACARIO
JARELLE DUJALE
VERATRINA DE CASTRO
ANA RIZZA DIMAALA
CARMELLE ANNE NOFIA
CHEARLYN MAGALONA
JOHN LLOYD MONROYO
KARLA MAE DEBLOIS
DON RANEL FERNANDEZ
JAY-AR DE LOS REYES
MACY BAYUNGAN
MELODY JOY AMAGO
ANESAH RUMAGUM
MARY JANE ALFONSO
MAE ANNE MACATANGAY
ARMANDO ALRAS JR.
MARK ELMER PEREZ
ANNALYN ALBIAR
KEMUEL ARAM TAGON
JESALYN BERNAL
NAHDEN CUENCA
RON CEDRICK BARAQUEL
MELANIE ROSE DOMINGINA
JONATHAN MANGUBAT
MARY ROSE IBAÑEZ
MARC ALLEN DELA CRUZ
AILEEN BAAY
RACHELLE CAMILON
MIKEE MENDOZA

VISMIN
IRENE ARCENAL
MARK ANTHONY CUADRASAL
CHRISTIAN PAUL MAGDALE
GLYNDE BEBE CIRCULADO
VENIZA JOY MACARAEG
CHRISTINE JANE LASTIMOSA
GENEROSE CAGADAS
YUJI LUCAGDO
MARK RYAN MODEQUILLO
KRESTEL VELONTA
MARK DANIEL MANGINSAY
KIM JAMES DAGASUHAN
JAIDY ALINAS
KIMBERLY ROSE BASADRE
NOVIEM RALYNN TAPERLA
GIOVANNI ANIAN
JESON ANGOTAS
JEA FRALLENA
WILHELM TABUG
MELLIZA ANDRADA
JACENTH RIC GASTON
JOHN PAUL EBARLE
PRINCESS MARIEL RABOY
BENJIE ALVIAR
GEORGELYN TAMPARONG
GILBERT SABUTAS JR.
DESIREE CODILLA
CARHEY GEN ZULITA
MARICEL PARAN
EDDIE BOY CHIU
MA. KARINA EVIOTA
PATRICK ANDRADA
YORADYL LUCAYBO
DOLLY ROMOI
CORINA OLIVAR
GENELYN VALER
GORGE STEPHEN BANGKIL
GLENN REY JAINAR
MA. ALTHEA ANDRADA
ERICKA ABELLA
ARLENE ABABTILLA
LOU VILLA
EDGARDO CHIU JR.
JANUARY JEAN ZAMORA
GABRIEL DELA PEÑA
MARY JANE ANGOTAS
KEVIN ROSS EVIOTA
JESSIEL COLLADA
CLINT JUDE ADUCIJO

SCHOOL CATEGORY

1ST PRIZE (10 COMPUTERS)

GMA	NORTH LUZON	SOUTH LUZON	VISMIN
MARIES CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BINANGONAN, RIZAL	EAST CENTRAL COLLEGES PAMPANGA	DASMARIÑAS MAIN N.H.S. DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE	DAVAO WISDOM ACADEMY F.TORRES ST.,DAVAO CITY

2ND PRIZE (5 COMPUTERS)

GMA	NORTH LUZON	SOUTH LUZON	VISMIN
PASAY CITY WEST NATIONAL H.S. PASAY CITY	DAGUPAN CITY NATIONAL H.S. PANGASINAN	CAMARINES SUR N.H.S. CAMARINES SUR	CARMEN NATIONAL H.S. MACANHAN CARMEN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

3RD PRIZE (3 COMPUTERS)

GMA	NORTH LUZON	SOUTH LUZON	VISMIN
GRACE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRACE PARK, KALOOKAN CITY	NUEVA VIZCAYA COMP. H.S. NUEVA VIZCAYA	MASBATE NAT'L COMP. H.S. MASBATE	MISAMIS ORIENTAL GEN. COMP H.S. VELEZ ST., CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

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COMIC RELIEF (at left): Spot some of the Cabinet officials in the Senate gallery. Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol, DENR Secretary Lito Atienza, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. Blue ribbon committee chair Sen. Alan Cayetano referred to Apostol as "your wetness" (as in the days of the Estrada impeachment), which cracked up the hall. EDWIN BACASMAS

Freedom from Debt Coal
Junk ZTE de
NO t
GITIMAT
NEW ALPHABET?
A B ZTE F G
FIRST

CELEBRITY DUET: Members of Freedom from Debt Coalition introduce a new alphabet song about the mystery man in the $329-M NBN-ZTE deal during a press conference on Thursday. JOAN BONDOC

TO TELL THE TRUTH: Secretaries of DOTC Mendoza and of Trade Peter Favila and DOTC Asec Arnel Soneja. AP

MORAL SUPPORT: Though not summoned by the Senate, Cabinet men galore are there to back up their colleague DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza. EDWIN BACASMAS

'Wack Wack meet chance encounter'

By Dona Pazzibugan

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMunications Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday confirmed that the Wack Wack meeting took place, but gave a version different from that offered by Jose Miguel Arroyo, husband of the President.

While he confirmed the meeting, Mendoza denied Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's claim that Arroyo had angrily told him to "back off" the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"There was a chance encounter between Joey de Venecia and the First Gentleman in my presence in Wack Wack," Mendoza said at the second hearing of the Senate on the $329-million contract for the NBN project won by China's ZTE Corp.

Mendoza said he was talking to De Venecia when Arroyo arrived. Arroyo did not know who De Venecia was, according to the transportation secretary.

"In the process, I think they talked. The first question of the First Gentleman was, 'Who is he?' I told him he was Joey de Venecia. He asked, 'What is he doing here?' He's one of the proponents of the DOTC (project)," replied Mendoza.

He said Arroyo's comment was: "Why is he doing that? That's illegal. He's the son of the Speaker. That's irregular."

Mendoza said Arroyo "walked away" without raising his voice at De Venecia. He said in all the years he had known Arroyo, "I never saw him get angry."

He described Arroyo as "mild-mannered, *mahinahon* (calm)."

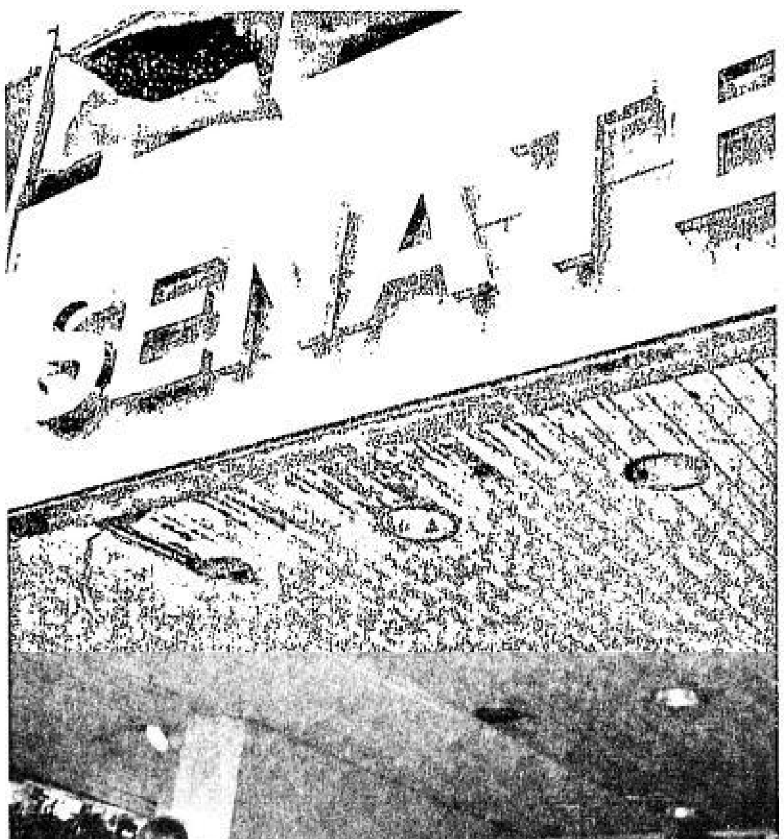
But Mendoza portrayed De Venecia as someone who dogged him and went to see him at his office "several times" to follow up on his firm's unsolicited NBN proposal. De Venecia is the founder-owner of Amsterdam Holdings Inc.

Before his reply to Sen. Joker Arroyo's question, Mendoza did not categorically confirm the meeting referred to by De Venecia when he was asked by Sen. Jamby Madrigal.

Mendoza hedged when Madrigal asked him point-blank if he was at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club with Arroyo, Abalos, Jimmy Paz, Ruben Reyes, Quirino de la Torre, Leo San Miguel and De Venecia in mid-March, as De Venecia had claimed.

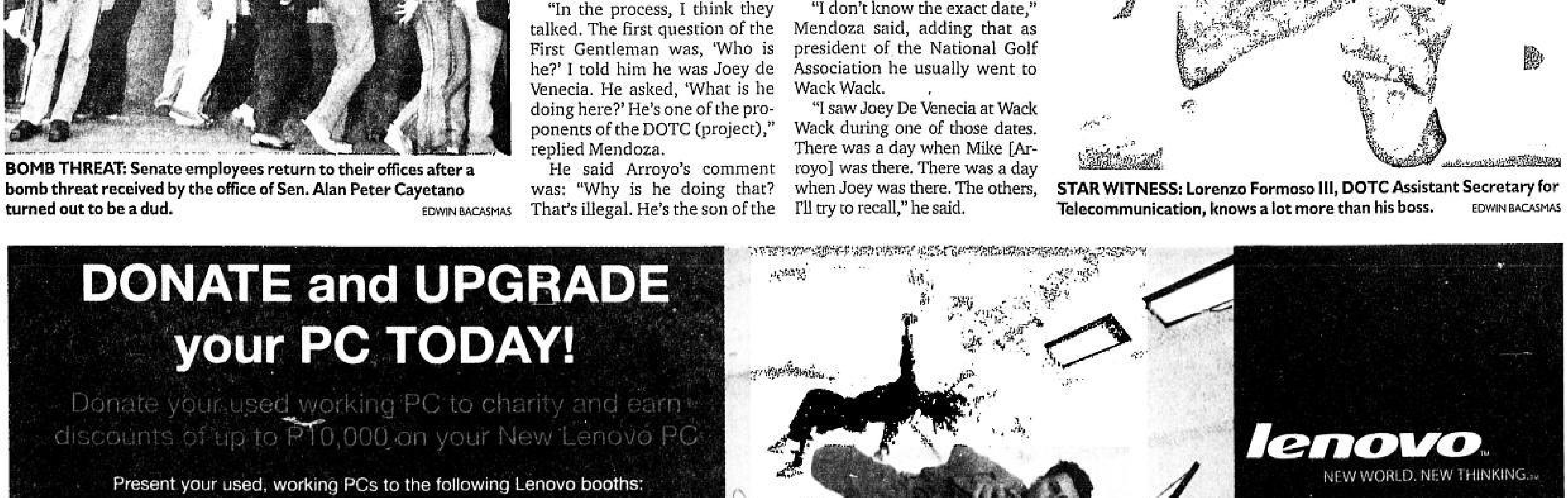
"I don't know the exact date," Mendoza said, adding that as president of the National Golf Association he usually went to Wack Wack.

"I saw Joey De Venecia at Wack Wack during one of those dates. There was a day when Mike [Arroyo] was there. There was a day when Joey was there. The others, I'll try to recall," he said.



BOMB THREAT: Senate employees return to their offices after a bomb threat received by the office of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano turned out to be a dud. EDWIN BACASMAS

STAR WITNESS: Lorenzo Formoso III, DOTC Assistant Secretary for Telecommunication, knows a lot more than his boss. EDWIN BACASMAS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The question is...

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tioned how the contract could be considered an executive agreement when there was no loan obtained.

"When you sought the legal opinion of the Department of Justice, you were not sure whether it was a contract or an executive agreement?" said Lacson, who noted that in all prior legal opinions of the DOJ, a loan agreement was a must for an executive agreement.

Loan prerequisite

Since there was no loan agreement, Lacson said there could not have been an executive agreement and therefore the supply contract should have been covered by the mandatory bidding rule.

"A loan is a prerequisite for it to become a loan agreement," said Lacson.

When Mendoza could not answer Lacson's demand for a definitive answer on the true nature of the supply contract, Chief State Counsel Ricardo Paras III and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya basically parroted what Mendoza said—that the contract was an executive agreement that would only take effect upon the approval of a loan deal with China.

Five steps

Sen. Miriam Santiago summed up questions on the process involved in completing a government-to-government agreement on a loan-tied project.

She asked Mendoza if the process involved the following:

1. After the executive agreement is signed, the Department of Budget and Management will issue a forward obligation authority (FOA) saying the government has the resources to pay the proposed loan.

2. Having received the FOA, Malacañang gives the go-signal to the Department of Finance (DOF) to negotiate a loan for the project.

3. The DOF talks to its foreign counterpart to finalize the loan.

4. The Monetary Board reviews the loan agreement.

5. Congress then approves the budget for the loan.

Santiago also asked if, usually, the supply contract was signed after these steps had been completed.

Mendoza agreed. However, he clarified that the sequence sometimes changes depending on the rules of the foreign financial institution extending the loan.

"In Japan, for example, with JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation), the executive agreement comes before the supply contract.

But with China's Eximbank, it wants the conditional supply contract first," Mendoza said.

Exchange of notes

Citing the Supreme Court ruling in Abaya v. Ebdane, Paras said his office took into consideration not only the loan but also the exchange of notes between the Japanese ambassador and the Philippine foreign secretary, which was similar to the exchange of notes between the Chinese ambassador and then Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

As an executive agreement and a foreign project, the deal was not only exempt from public bidding but also from the election ban on projects which needed the approval of Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections, Andaya said.

"The contract signed by Secretary Mendoza is unenforceable at this time until there is a loan agreement," said Andaya.

China's Eximbank

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano pointed out that in the reconstituted contract, it was clearly stated that "an executive agreement was entered into" between the Philippines and China to bankroll the NBN through a loan agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China on the condition that the equipment and services came from ZTE.

The contract was reconstituted in May after copies of the contract (one for the Department of Transportation and Communications [DOTC] and one for ZTE) were lost on the day they were signed.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. lectured the lawyer of the DOTC who had crafted the contract.

"Make sure your client is not put into trouble by the erroneous use of language. It is so patent to grade school pupils that it defies the credulity of this chamber. Why use 'was' when there is no contract? The wording is not based on the Supreme Court ruling but based on the fact before you," said Pimentel. "You are fudging facts here. Somebody is trying to pull our leg here."

Cayetano said that the contract was misleading—from ZTE's point of view. Based on the contract, there was an executive agreement while the DOTC claimed there was none.

Cayetano noted that if the contract was subject to the loan and the loan never came, "you would have violated the procurement law because there was no bidding."

GMA men swamp Senate

From page A1

retary Leandro was clearly not on top of the technical, legal and financial details.

Mendoza was consistently backstopped by his assistants, a justice official and two Cabinet secretaries almost every step of the way when queried on the benefits of the broadband network, the real status of the ZTE contract, and the loan that would fund the project.

Mendoza virtually imperiled the Cabinet entourage that accompanied him to the Senate hearing when he declared to his opening statement: "If you will notice honorable senators, I have with me now Cabinet members who have a hand in implementing the entire National Broadband Network project of our government."

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel was incredulous when Mendoza claimed he was unaware of news reports that Romulo Neri, former head of the National Economic and Development Authority, was offered a bribe of P200 million which he rejected.

Don't watch, read news

"You don't read any newspapers Mr. Secretary? Considering that this concerns ZTE and you are the top man on the contract," said Pimentel.

"Our focus is the merit of the project. I don't know what to believe in media anymore," said Mendoza.

Mendoza apparently does not only read newspapers, but also does not watch television.

He claimed that President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel, was a calm person and that he had never seen him "get angry."

But when Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano asked if he saw Arroyo's outburst in the House ethics committee on TV during the probe of his alleged secret bank account in Germany, Mendoza said with a sheepish grin: "I didn't watch."

In a text message, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Mendoza appeared "clueless" about many aspects of his job.

"His undersecretaries and assistant secretaries must be having a field day each time a multibillion contract is in the offing," Lacson said.

Sen. Francis Escudero noticed that Mendoza relied too much on technical people, "even the budget secretary to answer questions, which should not be the case because it is the Department of Transportation and Communications which he heads that is the lead and implementing agency [of the NBN deal]."

Pleasantly surprised

The senators, who also turned out in full force, were pleasantly surprised to find a number of Cabinet men in the hall after Malacañang had snubbed the first hearing on Tuesday.

Ms Arroyo's officials had also snubbed Senate hearings on the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal and hearings on military related bills.

Eighteen of 22 senators, including Senate President Manuel Villar Jr., attended the hearing.

Ermita told reporters the Cabinet officials were there upon the orders of Ms Arroyo to give "moral support" to Mendoza and Trade Secretary Peter Favila who had snubbed the first hearing.

Mendoza brought with him Assistant Secretaries Lorenzo Formoso III and Ernesto Soneja and a team from the National Bureau of Investigation.

Mendoza, who said ZTE had offered the best terms and had the best technical proposal for the contract, described critics of the deal as "disgruntled personalities."

"They run around and grab every microphone or camera to peddle their lies, accusations and unfounded allegations," he said. "We can no longer bear to keep our silence."

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya ended up as witnesses.

Other Cabinet officials who showed up were Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Sergio Apostol; acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devenadera who came with several justice officials; Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro; Director General Augusto Santos Jr. of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda); Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde, and presidential assistant Conrado Limcaoco Jr.

Even officials who had nothing to do with the project were around—Atienza, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral, Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina, Land Transportation Office chief Reynaldo Berroya and presidential assistant Narciso Santiago Jr.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. did not pass up the chance to get the Cabinet officials under the Senate's jurisdiction by swearing them in as witnesses.

Just bystanders

But Apostol protested, saying he and the other officials were not officially called as witnesses and that they were there as "bystanders."

As Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile also objected, Sen. Alan Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, said the Senate was not forcing anyone to be sworn in.

It was the first time the younger De Venecia and Mendoza saw each other since the businessman exposed the alleged bribery and other anomalies in the NBN contract.

De Venecia III had charged that the President's husband tried to bully him into withdrawing his own NBN proposal, in front of Mendoza and Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. of the Commission on Elections at a meeting at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City in March.

De Venecia had also alleged that Abalos had tried to bribe him with $10 million to withdraw his proposal.

Before the hearing began, Mendoza went around Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico and approached De Venecia to shake hands. De Venecia was seen frowning afterward.

Minutes later, photographers asked the two men to repeat the handshake, which they did.

Former Neda chief Romulo Neri excused himself from the hearing due to "intestinal flu."

Abalos' chief of staff also sent the Comelec chair's "regrets." But Abalos promised to attend the next hearing.

Bomb threat

At around 11:50 a.m., or two-and-a-half hours before the hearing, Cayetano's office received a bomb threat on the phone. The caller reportedly said he had planted a bomb in the Senate.

Cayetano was not in the room at the time.

The office of the Senate sergeant at arms, after searching the office and the session hall with bomb sniffing dogs, found nothing.

By 12:51 p.m. the Senate employees were assured that the building was safe.

Before 'Rolex 12,' there was ...

From page A1

Fidel Ramos, chief of the Philippine Constabulary (PC) ; Maj. Gen. Jose Rancudo, Air Force chief; Adm. Hilario Ruiz, Navy flag officer in command; Maj. Gen. Fabian Ver; Brig. Gen. (then Col.) Ignacio Paz, chief of intelligence, the Joint General Staff; Brig. Gen. Tomas Diaz of the 1st PC Zone; Brig. Gen. (then Col.) Alfredo Montoya, Metropolitan Command chief; Col. Romeo Gatan, provincial PC commander of Rizal and special projects officer.

The civilians were Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and businessman and Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco.

These closest advisers of Marcos were later called the "Rolex 12." (The story goes that each of the men received a Rolex watch from Marcos himself. This was later denied repeatedly, but the name is still used to refer to the group.)

'7 wise men'

In the Official Gazette report, Marcos said he met with the 12 men "repeatedly, in all-night sessions at Pangarap, Malacañang Park," five or seven days before the actual proclamation."

But according to a general interviewed by National College of Public Administration and Governance dean Alex Brillantes Jr., and quoted in his book, "Dictatorship and Martial Law: Philippine Authoritarianism in 1972," six of the 12 knew of Marcos' decision to impose martial law two months before the actual proclamation.

Referred to as the "seven wise men" by Marcos' civilian aides in Malacañang, the group—Marcos himself, Enrile, Ver, Diaz, Montoya, Gatan and Cojuangco—met in early July 1972 at the Pangarap rest house after a party held to celebrate the promotion of some military officers.

Per Brillantes' account: Marcos disclosed his plan to use his emergency powers and told Enrile to "plan this out."

The group left the rest house and moved to the Presidential Command's headquarters, where Enrile assigned the tasks to those present.

Montoya was to implement the declaration of martial law in Metro Manila, Diaz was to direct its implementation in the First PC Zone, and Ver was to handle the "conclave in Malacañang."

One of the generals noticed Ramos' absence and asked Ver why he was not included, given that he was a Marcos relative.

Ver replied: "I really don't know. ... That's how the President decides these things."

Brillantes said Enrile admitted later in an interview that it was he "who dictated the drafts [of Presidential Proclamation No. 1081-'Proclaiming a State of Martial Law in the Philippines"], but that the President corrected them."

Enrile also reportedly said Cojuangco was involved because "he was the political leader trusted by the President to supervise the Central Luzon area."

Another general interviewed by Brillantes said Cojuangco was involved "because he had contact with, and knew how to handle, [Sen. Benigno "Ninoy"] Aquino."

Ninoy Aquino, who was assassinated on Aug. 21, 1983, was Marcos' archenemy. His wife, former President Corazon Aquino, is a cousin of Cojuangco's.

'Omega 5'

But of the Rolex 12, there were the "Omega 5," Tomas Diaz told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Diaz, apparently the lone survivor of Omega 5, said this secret group (which supposedly included Ver) helped craft the decrees leading to Proclamation 1081 even before the Rolex 12 finalized the strongman's plan.

A native of Paoay, Ilocos Norte, Diaz said the Rolex 12 met in 1972 to implement what the Omega 5 had planned as early as 1970.

Having been a member of the two groups, he said he had both a Rolex and an Omega watch.

"Marcos was a very detailed man. He started preparing in 1970," Diaz said in a phone interview.

He said that at the time of the Omega 5 meetings, he was PC provincial commander of Tarlac, a hotbed of insurgency and Ninoy Aquino's home province.

During the Rolex 12 meetings in 1972, he said, he was already commander of the 1st PC Zone, which had jurisdiction over Tarlac, Pampanga and other provinces in Central Luzon.

He retired in 1978 as deputy PC chief.

'About midnight'

It was Montoya who recommended that the declaration be made at "about midnight," when most of the radio and TV stations would be off the air.

If martial law was to be declared during the day, Montoya had an alternate plan of blowing up all transmitter stations to cut off communication.

Of the "12 apostles," only Rancudo opposed the plan to declare martial law—a fight that he continued until his death on April 14, 1987.

Enrile stayed on as Marcos' defense secretary (later minister) until their breakup in February 1986.

During martial law, Enrile, Cojuangco and Maria Clara Lobregat formed what militant farmers called the triumvirate for the implementation of Marcos' coconut levies.

Enrile is now a member of the administration bloc in the Senate.

Where are they now?

When Marcos fled in 1986 to Hawaii, where he died on Sept. 28, 1989, Cojuangco and family went with him.

In November 1989, Cojuangco ended his self-exile and came back in a private aircraft. Today, he is back as board chair of San Miguel Corp., the country's largest firm, which he once controlled.

He also chairs the central committee of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

Ramos joined Enrile in seizing the AFP headquarters in February 1986 and both were hailed heroes of Edsa 1.

President Corazon Aquino appointed Ramos in 1986 as AFP chief of staff. In 1988, he became defense secretary.

He was responsible for blocking six coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

He served as President in 1992-1998. He is now chair emeritus of the ruling party, Lakas-CMD.

Ver was one of the most feared and powerful men during Marcos' iron rule. He was held responsible by human rights groups for the imprisonment, torture and death of countless dissidents.

He fled to Hawaii along with the Marcoses.

He was charged by the majority members of the Agrava Fact-Finding Board as a principal in the double murder of Ninoy Aquino and Rolando Galman. But in late 1985, the Sandiganbayan acquitted him and other military respondents.

Ver was charged as an accomplice in a new trial ordered by the Supreme Court. But he was not tried in his absence and the case against him has been shelved.

He died on Nov. 21, 1998, in Bangkok.

Gatan, also among those believed involved in the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, has likewise died, along with Espino and Paz. *Eliza Victoria, Cyril Bonabente, Kate Pedroso and Minerva Generalao, Inquirer Research*

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Favila deviates from official line

By Dona Pazzibugan

TRADE SECRETARY PETER Favila last night deviated from the Arroyo administration's official line of pushing through with the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project won by China's ZTE Corp.

In the only time that he was asked during the hearing, Favila said he was open to modifying or even rescinding the government-to-government loan contract due to the anomalies that have cropped up.

Among the Cabinet officials who attended the hearing, Favila was the only one who indicated that he was wavering about pursuing the contract at all.

He said he would talk to his Chinese counterpart, Trade Minister Bo Xilai, to discuss other options to undertake the NBN project, including its "cancellation or abrogation."

The Chinese government had offered to finance the NBN project.

Favila said he had informed his Chinese counterpart about the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court while it decides whether or not the contract is disadvantageous to the government.

Favila was replying to Sen. Joker Arroyo's question whether it was "worth it" for the government to insist on the loan contract which has "cost us too much stress, so much conflict."

"The minister (Bo) said he understands the rule of law has to be observed. And I would like to believe I got an opening when I reminded him that we need to wait for the Supreme Court ruling," he said.

Favila said that after hearing the discussions at the Senate inquiry and getting the opinions of colleagues, the business sector, the academe and the media, he decided to raise the matter with Bo.

"It is worth exploring with my counterpart what these options and variations (are). I heard about BOO (build-operate-own), BOT (build-operate-transfer), cancellation, abrogation and so on and so forth," he said.

"At least at my level, I will, I am prepared, to bring this up and discuss this with him thoroughly. I just cannot second-guess what they [the Chinese government] have to say but I'll be more than happy to report to you, your honors," he said.

Ex-Magdalo lawyer sues JDV for breach of ethics

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA yesterday became the subject of an ethics case in connection with his failure to stop his son from getting involved in the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

It also raised the ethical issue of congressional franchises being awarded to Jose "Joey" de Venecia III's firm, Multi-Media Telephony Inc., during the Speaker's second term as House leader in 1995 and in 1996.

Ruel Pulido, a lawyer who represented the young officers involved in the Oakwood mutiny of 2003, filed the verified complaint before the House committee on ethics at 10 a.m. He claimed he did so independently of any interest in the NBN deal.

FORMAL COMPLAINT: Lawyer Roel Pulido asks the House committee on ethics and privileges to discipline Speaker De Venecia for failing to stop his son from pursuing a government contract. Trouble is, the House has not gotten around to organizing such a committee. JOAN BONDOC

Sworn affidavit

Pulido's case stemmed from De Venecia III's sworn affidavit wherein the Speaker's son said that he, his father and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos once had breakfast at the Speaker's residence in Makati to discuss the broadband project.

"You saw a crime being committed inside your house. It's your obligation to prevent that crime happening," Pulido said.

Pulido referred to Joey's involvement in the NBN project as a major stockholder in NBN bidder Amsterdam Holdings Inc. AHI lost the $329-million project to ZTE Corp. under allegedly questionable circumstances.

Still, under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Pulido said, Joey was proscribed as the Speaker's son from getting involved in a government contract.

No ethics committee yet

Pulido also charged that there was an ethical issue when Congress with De Venecia as Speaker of the House awarded a radio paging franchise to Joey's Multi-Media Telephony Inc. in 1995.

He said that since the radio paging franchise was not enough, for Joey's company, Congress in 1997 awarded MTI a franchise for broadband services.

House secretary general Roberto Nazáreno said the House committee on ethics has yet to be organized. *Norman Bordadora*

Mendoza claims JDV lobbied hard for AHI

From page A1

Mendoza said he, the Speaker and his son were at the table when they discussed the advantages of AHI's proposal.

"I just told them that it is under evaluation," the secretary said.

Mendoza said that when the Speaker made a pitch for his son's offer early this year, "we were already evaluating a number of proposals."

In the course of the meeting at the De Venecia residence in Makati, Mendoza said the Speaker described the NBN project as "very good for the country."

After the hearing, the younger De Venecia reiterated his claim that it was Mendoza who came to his father's house and that he only dropped by without knowing that Mendoza would be there.

In his affidavit, De Venecia III said that in March, he went to his father's house where he chanced upon Mendoza, who was asking the Speaker to support his son's congressional bid in Batangas.

Mendoza's son won and is now a member of the House of Representatives.

Opportunity

The younger De Venecia said he saw Mendoza's presence at his father's house as an opportunity and approached the DOTC secretary to discuss the NBN.

"Secretary Mendoza responded by saying, 'your project, Joey, is a big problem as Chairman [Benjamin] Abalos [of the Commission on Elections] is so angry at you and wants the NBN project for himself,'" the affidavit said.

The younger De Venecia has accused Abalos of brokering the ZTE deal in exchange for a commission and of trying to bribe him with $10 million to back out of the NBN project.

Abalos arranged ZTE meet

He gave the same account on Tuesday, the first Senate hearing on the $329-million contract for the NBN project won by China's ZTE contract.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told the Senate hearing that Abalos also arranged a meeting between him and ZTE officials last year.

Teves said he again met with Abalos, who was with Mendoza and ZTE officials, at Wack Wack sometime this year.

"I was invited by Mendoza. Abalos was there. He didn't say anything [about the NBN project]. We were trying to talk to the ZTE [officials]. They wanted to find out what was happening with the loan [agreement]," the finance secretary said.

Mendoza's version

Mendoza, however, gave a different version of the meeting, insisting that Abalos had played no part in the NBN transaction.

He told the hearing that the meeting was arranged by the ZTE officials who wanted to meet with him at Wack Wack. Mendoza said he also invited Teves.

Asked what Abalos' role was, he said, "*Hindi ko po alam. Ang nag*-invite *sa akin ay* ZTE. *Palabas-labas siya* (I don't know. I was invited by ZTE. [Abalos] went in and out of the room)."

Teves said they met in a small function room at Wack Wack.

Teves' disclosure came shortly before the hearing ended at 9 p.m. Throughout the hearing Mendoza insisted that Abalos had never discussed the NBN project with him.

Hanging around

After being introduced to the Speaker's son, Mendoza told the senators that "he (Joey) went to my office several times and I introduced him to the technical working group."

He claimed that he saw the younger De Venecia "hanging around" on several occasions while he (Mendoza) was performing his social and official obligations.

Mendoza denied that he went to the house of the Speaker to enlist his support for his son's candidacy in the May elections.

Mendoza admitted that some politicians do approach him and make recommendations on projects.

He said that as much as possible, he tries to "accommodate them diplomatically," but the "accommodation is just to talk to them but not to (influence) the result."

Agile group

During her turn to question Mendoza, Santiago cited a paper by University of the Philippines economics professors Raul Fabella and Emmanuel de Dios that said that the country did not need another broadband network.

Citing "raw data," Santiago indicated that the paper was funded by an American non-government organization, Agile (Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity), which was linked to one of the losing proponents of the NBN project, Arescom, an American firm.

Fabella last night denied that the paper he cowrote with De Dios was funded by Agile, a US-funded program put up in 1998 that pools mostly Filipino experts to provide technical services or advice to Philippine government agencies.

Demolition strategy

"Of course, it is false. That's a demolition strategy," Fabella said of Santiago's allegation when contacted by the Inquirer.

Santiago said the NBN deal could be the victim of geopolitical rivalry between China and the United States.

Upon the prodding of Santiago, Mendoza related that Agile was indeed one of the groups that had been disparaging the NBN deal.

Santiago went on to belittle AHI's capability to implement the NBN project by asking how a company with an authorized capital stock of P5 million could bid for a project worth P12 billion.

Mendoza said this was the reason a technical working group came to the conclusion that the government could not act on AHI's bid because it lacked the necessary requirements.

THE CENTER OF CONTROVERSY, and the man who started it all, Jose de Venecia III, is mobbed by the media before the start of the second day of the Senate hearing on the NBN deal. ROGER MARGALLO

Speaker now accused of cornering contracts

From page A1

elations about kickbacks in the $329-million NBN deal that was finally awarded to the Chinese firm ZTE.

"It is the duty of the Speaker in the interest of transparency to disclose all contracts and projects that he, or through his companies, had been able to obtain from the government," Villafuerte told the Inquirer.

"He should do this rather than wait for other persons to disclose them and let the issue blow up in his face," the Camarines Sur representative said.

Villafuerte said he had information about these contracts and would divulge them in due time.

"There are several [contracts]," he said, without elaborating.

Asked if these were cornered during the Arroyo administration, he replied: "Even before."

Villafuerte, president of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, belongs to a faction of Kampi which sought to challenge De Venecia's bid for a fifth term as Speaker at the start of the 14th Congress.

The other faction, led by Kampi chair and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, backed De Venecia.

If indeed the Speaker was involved in contracts with the government, Villafuerte said there could be a violation of the antigraft law.

Antigraft law

Section 5 of this law has been cited by Ms Arroyo's allies to go after the younger De Venecia, who had implicated First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in the NBN project. The younger De Venecia's Amsterdam Holdings Inc. lost out to ZTE.

The law declares as "unlawful for the spouse or for any relative, by consanguinity or affinity, within the third civil degree," of the President of the Philippines, the Vice President, Senate President and House Speaker "to intervene, directly or indirectly, in any business, transaction, contract or application with the government."

Day of reckoning

But the rule does not apply to people who had been "already dealing with the government along the same line of business" before their relatives assumed any of the positions identified by law.

Also yesterday, three administration congressmen raised the specter of a "reckoning day" in the wake of De Venecia III's testimony before a Senate inquiry on Tuesday implicating the President's husband in the NBN deal with China.

VILLAFUERTE: I'll divulge them at proper time.

"I hope we won't reach that point, but all signs lead to that direction unless the Speaker's son shuts up," Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella told the Inquirer.

Puentevella referred to the eventuality when members of the House of Representatives would have to choose between President Arroyo and De Venecia.

House Majority Leader Arthur Defensor said congressional allies were avoiding the prospect of having to "form two lines—one for the President and another one for the Speaker."

"We are aware of the dangers and consequences of disturbing the peace [within the coalition]," Defensor told the Inquirer. "It will have far-reaching effects."

Choice between son and GMA

Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia said there were a number of administration lawmakers trying to keep their loyalty to both the President and the Speaker. "But at some point, we would all have to make a choice."

Garcia, a Kampi stalwart, said the decision should first come from De Venecia, especially since the controversy was started by the Senate testimony of his son.

"It was a direct attack against the First Gentleman and it was also a direct attack against the President," the 81-year-old Garcia told the Inquirer.

Lawmakers troop to Palace

"So far, De Venecia has been conveniently ambiguous on the matter. But soon he will have to answer the question: Will he support his son or the President?"

To avoid a collision course with Ms Arroyo, around 130 lawmakers trooped to Malacañang late Wednesday night to "rally behind the President," Garcia said.

Garcia, who was present in the dinner in Malacañang, said the gathering was partly organized by Ms Arroyo's sons in the House, Representatives Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo.

"It was a show of support for the President because of all the controversies she is facing now," said Puentevella, who also attended the dinner.

Earlier that evening, Defensor said he met with De Venecia about legislative matters. He admitted that the matter of the speakership—said to be under threat as a result of the younger De Venecia's accusation against the First Gentleman—was eventually tackled.

"We're also monitoring if there are movements," he said, referring to the possibility of allies abandoning ship.

Small talk

Defensor also warned colleagues: "He who tries to destroy the House will inherit the wind."

At the Malacañang dinner, Garcia said discussions about the impact of De Venecia III's revelations on the balance of power in the House were limited to "small talk" among congressmen.

Puentevella said Ms Arroyo arrived later in the evening to deliver a one-minute statement thanking the lawmakers for coming. He said the President then went around the tables to greet the congressmen.

"There was a feeling among the lawmakers," said Garcia, "that the Speaker should react to the issue in a manner which will not be on a collision course with the President."

Puentevella admitted that the issue had "succeeded in putting a wedge" between the President and the Speaker.

Larger plot

He warned colleagues that De Venecia III's testimony could be part of a larger plot to sow seeds of discord among administration lawmakers and ultimately destabilize the government.

"Joey has thrown [down] something divisive," Puentevella said. "There is a script involved in this. Whoever wrote the script and directed the whole thing is a master of this game. I must commend him."

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6 customs execs charged in smuggling

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AT THE SUBIC BAY FREEPORT, BRAND NEW LUXury cars carry a price tag of less than P100,000. But government investigators are not buying it.

The Department of Finance yesterday filed with the Office of the Ombudsman graft charges against six Bureau of Customs personnel in connection with the smuggling of 14 luxury vehicles which were appraised at only about P1 million six months ago.

Charged were Josephine Dullas, acting chief of the certificate of payment unit of the BOC-Subic; custom examiners Orlando Ronquillo, Rustico Mallari and Enrico Cruz and principal appraisers Ebrahim Pangkatan and Rodolfo Casis.

More investigation

RIPS lawyer Romeo Tomas Jr. disclosed that five higher officials of the BOC were still being investigated.

The six BOC employees were accused of conspiring with one another to release the P37-million worth of luxury vehicles without proper payment of tax obligations.

The filing of charges came a month following the demolition of 18 smuggled cars at the Clark Freeport Zone upon the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Based on the 18-page complaint, 16 high-end luxury cars were smuggled out of the holding area of the Hidemitsu Trading Corp., a locator within the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, without payment of proper custom taxes and duties.

Showroom cars

This was a report, dated Feb. 10, 2007, submitted by Alfonso Dominguez, then chair of the board and authorized representative of the corporation, to the BOC.

Fourteen of the cars were found in several showrooms or private residences outside the SBMA after the Task Force Anti-Smuggling-Special Operations Group conducted surveillance operations.

Two of the cars have not been shipped out of the free port, the task force found later. These were eventually forfeited in favor of the government.

The complaint also showed that three brand new Audi 8L were only priced at $2,100 each (or roughly P96,600 each); a Chevrolet Corvette at $1,600 (P73,600) and three BMW 750Li at $1,600 each (P72,500 each).

But the cars' actual "blue book value" were placed at $72,090 (P3.2 million); $51,535 (P2.34 million) and $78,100 (P3.53 million).

Other cars

These, and seven other luxury cars, which included Acuras, Infinity SUVs and Nissan Armadas, were allegedly estimated by the respondents to be worth P1 million, showing an undervaluation of almost P37 million, or 90 percent of their actual value, read the complaint.

The accused also allegedly declared the cars as "used" or "second-hand vehicles" contrary to their real condition.

MEMBERS of the PNP Regional Mobile Group view the engine of a Lincoln Navigator which had flat tires (first car, black) and other cars lined up before the start of the destruction of 18 smuggled cars held at the Naval Supply Depot, Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales. LYN RILLON

Sorsogon City sounds alarm over losses from red tide

SORSOGON CITY—THE CITY government has sounded the alarm as losses continued to mount, now reaching P70 million, as a result of the persistent presence of red tide at the Sorsogon Bay.

City Mayor Leovic Dioneda said the recent consultative meeting among local government units that suffered the plague's effects gave a picture of the worsening condition of the bay, which had brought hardship to more than 6,000 families.

He said the figure represented the losses incurred by the fishermen as well as losses incurred by local businessmen who export shell fish products to Metro Manila and abroad.

Piling up

Dioneda invited the local officials of Magallanes, Casiguran, Juban and Castilla towns to a meeting, together with officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Bicol University Research and Development Center, in an attempt to come up with a comprehensive solution.

The mayor said the economic losses, as well as the number of families who lost income, continued to pile up daily.

As a result of the red tide, the BFAR has imposed a shell fish ban at the bay since September last year.

SOS

Dioneda said the city government was already being swamped by urgent requests for assistance as thousands of families face a grim future.

The city government has already declared a state of calamity to be able to respond to the basic needs of its constituents like food and medicines.

The city council has authorized the release of P15 million on a staggered basis as the fund becomes available.

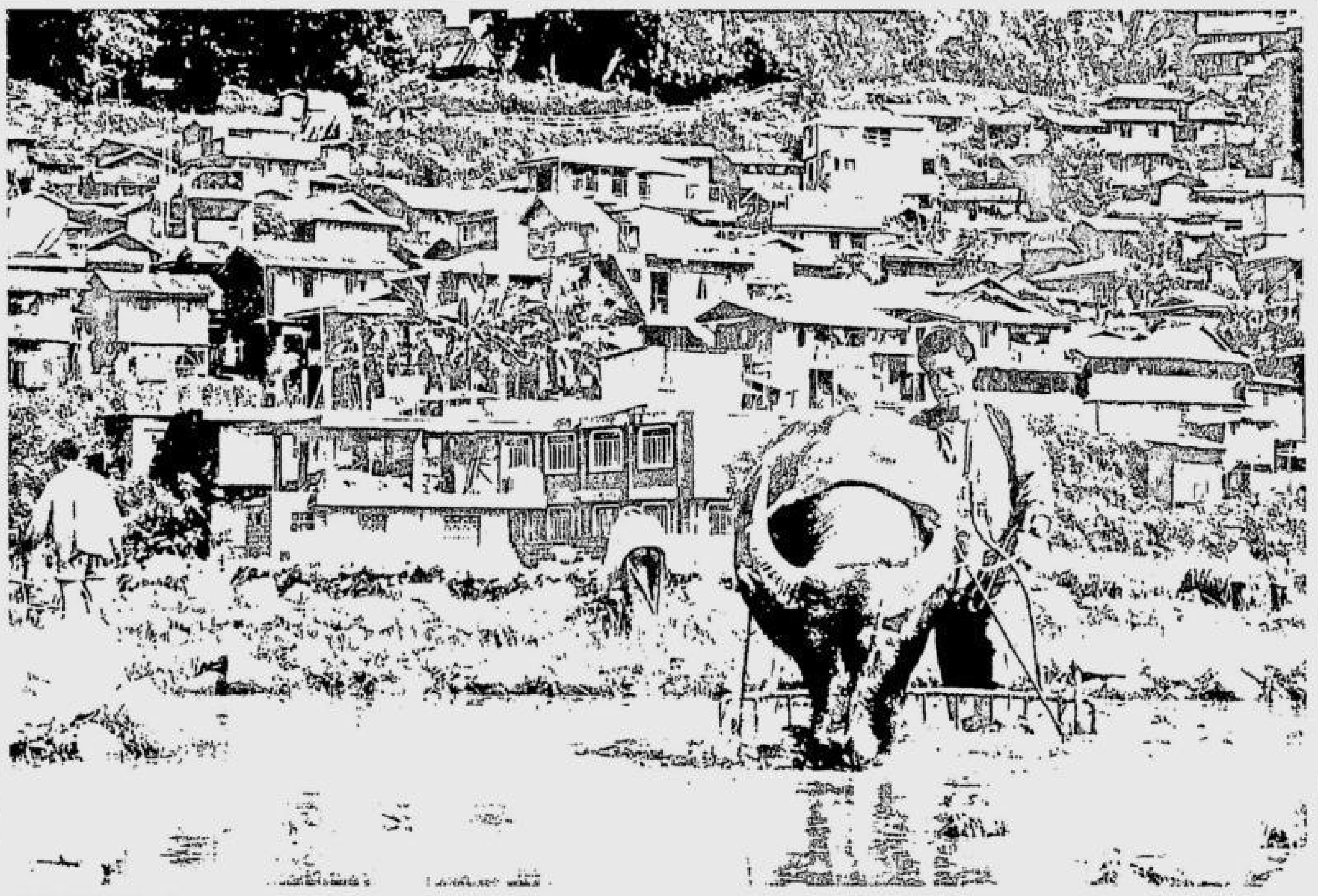
Dioneda has issued a directive to concerned city government offices to check the social impact of the red tide on local communities following reports from barangay officials that women and children are leaving their homes in search for menial jobs elsewhere.

Cleanup

"We don't want our constituents to be ripped apart by this plague so we will try as best we could to help them in their livelihood," he said.

"The immediate assistance that we could possibly extend is through the food-for-work program, which is now being drawn up by the city agriculture and city social welfare offices," Dioneda added.

A coastal cleanup has been set this coming Saturday. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



SHRINKING FARMS

ELMER KRISTIAN DALIGOY/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Farming areas in Bontoc, Mt. Province are getting smaller and smaller as more and more houses are built on rice fields.

1 dead, 3 missing as heavy rains pound Antique

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A PERSON drowned and three others, including two children, remained missing in Antique as heavy and continuous rains brought by typhoons Falcon and Goring triggered landslides and flash floods in Western Visayas.

Rescuers found the remains of Richard Banesio, 21, in Barangay Bugnay in Valderrama town in Antique Sunday after he was covered by debris when a landslide occurred while he was on his way home, according to a report yesterday of the Antique Public Safety and Disaster Management Center.

The three missing included Edmar Jauod, 10, and Rizza Operiano, 9, of Bugasong town who were carried away by waters while crossing the Pangalcan River in Bugasong. Analyn Laude, 28, of Barangay Macarina in Patnongon town also went missing after she was carried by rampaging waters of the Macarina Creek.

Broderick Train, executive officer of the Antique Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said 22 families or 67 persons were evacuated Wednesday afternoon from Barangay San Antonio in Barbaza town after the Dalanas River overflowed.

The families have been relocated to the barangay hall and health center, he said.

In Iloilo City, Mayor Jerry Treñas and City and School Superintendent Erlinda Gencaya yesterday issued and order suspending classes in the elementary and high school levels in both public and private schools as major parts of the city were flooded.

Rescue groups and disaster response teams have been alerted for the possible evacuation of residents living beside rivers.

Traffic stalled in many areas after vehicles were stranded in flooded streets.

Cops ask telcos for help vs NPAs

LEGAZPI CITY—THE BICOL police yesterday urged telecommunications companies to set up their own intelligence machinery and network to help authorities preempt attacks by New People's Army rebels.

Communist guerrillas were tagged responsible for the recent bombing of cellular phone sites in the provinces of Sorsogon and Camarines Sur.

Senior Supt. Eliciar Bron, Bicol police spokesperson, said while it was the responsibility of the police and the military to ensure security in these vital installations, private telecommunications firms should do their share.

Bron said the police have recommended that telecommunication firms provide cellular phones to selected villagers living near their cell sites to relay information on attacks that were being prepared by the guerrillas.

Villagers' help

Two provincial police directors in Bicol may face administrative charges for failure to preempt the attacks on vital installations despite standing orders by Senior Supt. Balligi Agnanayon Tira, Bicol police director, to tighten security against communist guerrilla attacks in the region.

Senior Supt. Joel Regondola and Senior Supt. Romeo Tambungui, provincial police directors of Sorsogon and Camarines Sur, respectively, were ordered investigated and charged if found liable for neglect of duty after the alleged NPA attacks on vital communications installations.

Bron said they were investigating possible lapses in security and if the areas where the attacks happened are within the jurisdiction of the police.

Lapses

On Monday night, about 20 heavily-armed NPA members burned a Globe Telecommunications cell site in Barangay Batang in Pamplona town and its relay station in Barangay Tinangguihan in Libmanan town, both in Camarines Sur.

The burning of the relay station near the Maharlika Highway damaged its detachable cabin worth P1.6 million.

Police said the burning of the cell site caused damages of at least P150,000.

NPA attack

Sgt. Armando Escote, officer in charge of the 21st Civil Relations Unit of the Armed Forces in Bicol, cited intelligence reports as saying that the attacks were due to the company's refusal to pay "revolutionary taxes" to the NPA.

Earlier, NPA members attacked a Globe tower in Barangay Sapngan in Bulusan, Sorsogon, on Friday. One guard was wounded.

Bron said that they would also review the memorandum of agreement between the police and the Armed Forces regarding areas of responsibility since remote areas are usually the concern of the military. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

New sighting of RP eagles encourages conservation

PEÑABLANCA, CAGAYAN—AT least three new sightings of the endangered Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) were recorded recently at the Peñablanca protected landscape and seascape here, prompting conservationists to be upbeat on efforts to protect the national bird.

Dr. Artemio Antolin, Conservation International (CI) biodiversity corridor program director, said the sightings came following seven sightings along the Northern Sierra Madre natural park in Isabela.

Logging survivors

"These Philippine eagles have been seen but their nesting and breeding sites have yet to be identified. This information is promising … even though commercial logging had been rampant in the 1970s to the 1980s along the Sierra Madre mountain ranges," he said.

The Philippine eagle, a forest raptor described as one of the three most critically endangered species in the world, belongs to the 118 species of birds seen in the Peñablanca protected area, Antolin said.

At least 56 species, or 47 percent, of the birds in the park are endemic, he added.

Endemic owls

CI records said at least 178 species of fauna (birds, doves, reptiles and bats) have been recorded in the park, with 54 percent of them classified as endemic.

Four endemic owls have been seen in the park.

"The park possesses a wealth of biological diversity. In fact, it is one of the most important bird areas worldwide and a conservation priority in the country," Antolin said.

Antolin and other CI officials last week entered into a reforestation agreement with the Toyota Motor Corp., the Peñablanca local government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the 1,772-hectare reforestation project in five villages in Peñablanca's protected landscape and seascape.

Caves, rivers

CI records said the Peñablanca protected area has a 118,781-hectare forest and marine area. It is connected to the Northern Sierra Madre natural park, which has 476,588-hectare marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

"The forest of Peñablanca is a haven of endemic flora and fauna that is the richest in the world and considered as one of the country's last remaining old growth and mossy forests," Antolin said. *Vilamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Esperon bares new anti-gov't plot

ARMED FORCES CHIEF GEN. HERMOGENES ESperon Jr. has confirmed that the government has uncovered a new plot to destabilize the government.

Esperon told reporters authorities have been monitoring attempts to recruit officers and men once again for destabilization attempts, using "flimsy" and "old" issues against the military.

Esperon did not identify those behind the recruitment, citing "operational purposes."

But he said he was confident the attempt to get soldiers to turn against the government would fail.

Moreover, he said those recruited were also always abandoned by the destabilizers.

"Too bad for them [the destabilizers], our soldiers are imbued with the idea that it is only through the chain of command that we should be performing our duties," Esperon said.

Esperon spoke to reporters after a thanksgiving Mass at Camp Aguinaldo for the peaceful promulgation of the Sandiganbayan antigraft court verdict on the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada was convicted on two counts of plunder and sentenced to life imprisonment last Sept. 12, but an expected mass protest by his loyalists, for which the military and the police placed some 6,000 troops on alert, did not materialize.

Esperon said the alleged destabilizers have never stopped recruiting officers and enlisted personnel, through meetings or text messages, and have gone so far as to offer "monetary rewards" to those who would join.

"If there is such offer [of money], it must be leading to something that is illegal," Esperon said.

Esperon said the recruiters use issues such as "matters of welfare of men," procurement of military equipment, and the AFP modernization program, which he said the military leadership has already addressed.

Esperon did not discount the possibility that the "destabilizers" would capitalize on the controversial national broadband network deal that is now being investigated by the Senate.

He said the military organization is "mature enough" so that soldiers are aware of the issues. "They know what is right," he said.

"On the whole, your Armed Forces does not preoccupy itself with this because that's the job of the Senate anyway. So our troops will just continue with their operations," he said.

Meanwhile, Air Force Chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said yesterday that he would meet commanders of major Air Force units to discuss the new plot to topple the government.

"There isn't a report yet that something like that is happening in the Air Force. But I won't take a chance. I'll talk to my commanders," Tolentino said in a phone interview.

He said he would call the heads of major Air Force units and direct them to reach out to their men and advice them against taking part in any subversive move.

"I will ask them to advise the men on the ground that if there is anyone approaching them, or if they really want to do something [against the government], then they should get out. They should not use our capability for their own ends," he said. *Nikko Dizon and Tarra Quismundo*

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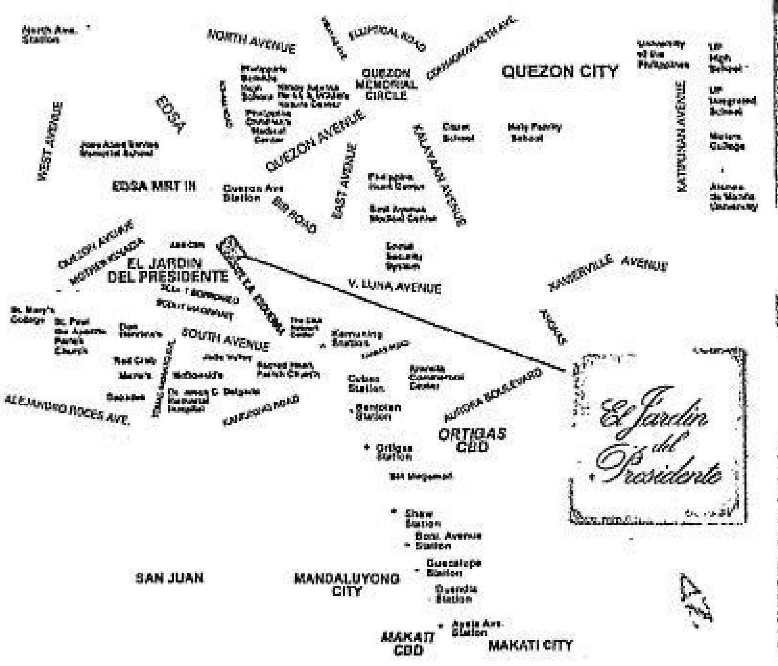

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Judge wants Magdalo trial over this year, shuns delays

By DJ Yap

TRILLANES

THE MAKATI judge hearing the coup d'etat case of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and 30 junior officers indicated yesterday that he wanted the trial to finish by the end of the year.

Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 said he would not accept any further postponement to the four-year-old case, and set weekly dates for the presentation of defense evidence beginning October.

"The accused have been detained since 2003. They naturally are entitled to an expeditious resolution of the case," he said in open court.

Pimentel, with the agreement of defense lawyers, has scheduled weekly dates for the defense to present evidence from Oct. 10 to Nov. 22.

"The court will require from the counsels for the accused an assurance that they will not seek any postponement," he said in an order issued at the end of hearing.

The prosecution wrapped up the presentation of its evidence in January, following which all but one of the 31 accused filed a motion to dismiss the case by way of demurrer to evidence. But Pimentel denied the motion in July.

Reynaldo Robles, the lawyer of Trillanes and 13 other accused, welcomed the move, saying that barring major developments, the court will be able to make a decision by December or January.

The lawyer is scheduled to make his case on Nov. 8 and 15. Asked if Trillanes would take the stand, he said he had yet to discuss it with his client.

He said it was still not certain if the case would be resolved by the end of the year.

The junior officers, who called themselves the Magdalo group, are charged with participation in the failed July 2003 coup, also known as the Oakwood mutiny, during which they occupied the Oakwood hotel for more than 24 hours.

Pimentel gave the order even as one of the defense lawyers made a final pitch for the reversal of Pimentel's order junking their demurrer to evidence.

Robles said he would file a motion for reconsideration on Monday for the case to be dismissed.

Pimentel said the issue would be considered submitted for resolution on Sept. 25 whether the motion is filed or not.

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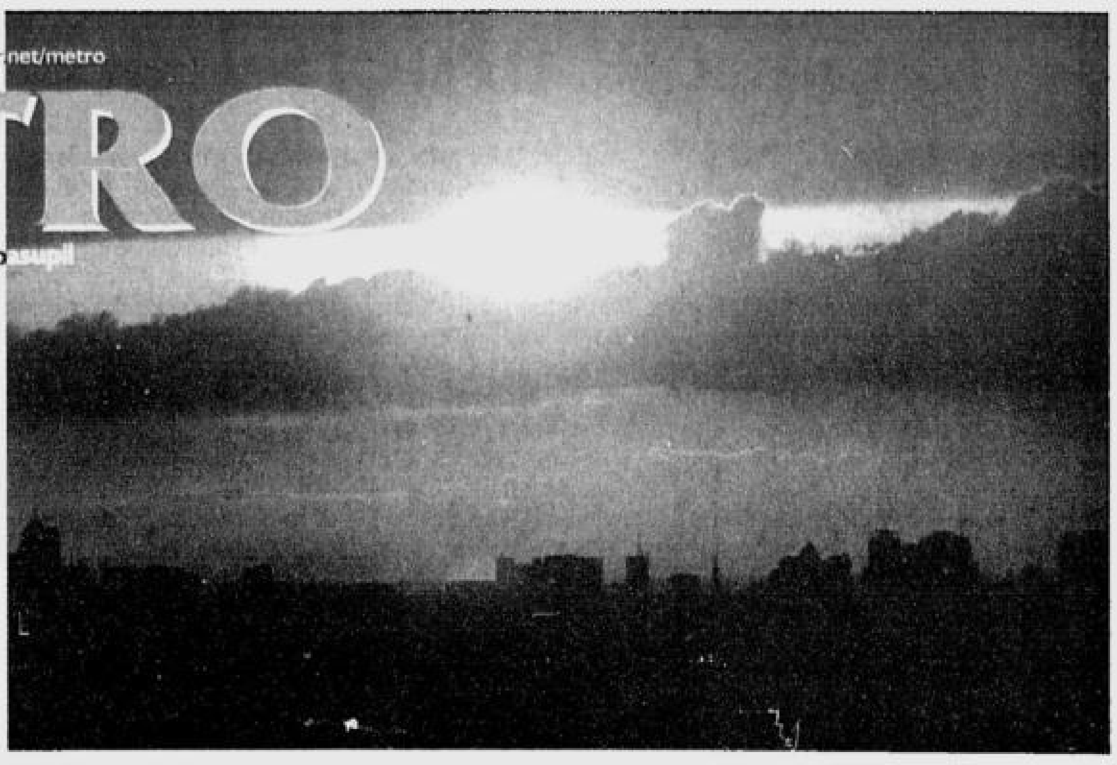

SAYING GOODNIGHT
The sun peaks out through clouds before it sets in Antipolo City.
RYAN LIM

PNP names new Metro police chiefs

SPD chief is Manila's top cop

By Alcuin Papa, Kristine L. Alave and Julie M. Aurelio

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE will implement today a reshuffle of its police commanders in the metropolis.

Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, PNP deputy chief for administration, announced yesterday that Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, the acting chief of the Manila Police District, would take over as head of the PNP Academy.

Abarzosa, who is an alumni of the PNPA, will replace Senior Supt. Nestor Fajura, the academy's acting director.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, the head of the Southern Police District, will succeed Abarzosa as MPD chief, considered an important post because the police district is in charge of securing Malacañang.

Lim's choice

"Finally, the (Manila) mayor has made a choice and that is General Rosales," Razon said, referring to Mayor Alfredo Lim.

Lim earlier expressed his desire for Abarzosa to stay on as MPD chief because he was "doing a good job."

Replacing Rosales at the SPD is Eastern Police District director, Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman.

The SPD has jurisdiction over the cities of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Taguig, Las Piñas and Muntinlupa.

Moving over to the EPD is Chief Supt. Leon Nilo dela Cruz, who is assigned to the National Capital Region Police Office. The EPD covers the areas of Pasig, Mandaluyong, San Juan and Marikina.

A mass turnover of the affected police commands will be held at 9 a.m. today at the headquarters of the NCRPO in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City.

"This reshuffle has been long overdue. There are quite a number of police officials who are retiring from the service," said Supt. Rhodel Sermonia, NCRPO spokesperson. "It's just a changing of the guard," he added.

Rosales, meanwhile, said that his reassignment to the MPD is a lateral move and not a promotion at all.

"I was being groomed for the MPD as early as 2004. It's a lateral move," he said over the phone.

Rosales promised to lower the incidence of street crimes in Manila once he assumes his new post.

"The bottom line is, like what I did at the SPD, to reduce the level of fear among residents. I ask all residents to help me in maintaining peace and order," he added.

Rosales took over as SPD chief in December 2006.

A blessing

Asked how he felt about being transferred from one district to another in less than a year, he said, "I believe that everything that comes my way is a blessing and not mere coincidences."

He added that he would not immediately implement a revamp at the MPD.

"A round peg belongs to a round hole, a square peg to a square hole. I will let them prove first that their abilities are matched with their tasks," Rosales said.

Ticman, meanwhile, said he received the memorandum for his transfer yesterday morning from the NCRPO.

He added that the move did not come as a surprise, considering that the PNP leadership had talked about implementing a revamp among the directors of the police districts in Metro Manila.

Ticman, who served as EPD chief for about a year, said he looks forward to the challenges at the SPD as it is a bigger district.

Two police districts were unaffected by the revamp—the Quezon City Police District which is headed by Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula and the Northern Police District whose director is Chief Supt. Pedro Tango.

DID YOU KNOW

THE GIRL Scouts of the Philippines was created in 1940 by Commonwealth Act No. 542, signed by then President Manuel L. Quezon. Just a year later, Japanese forces invaded the Philippines. About 3,000 girl scouts, led by Josefa Llanes Escoda, helped civic organizations collect food, medicine and clothes for Filipino soldiers in prison camps and hospitals.

Currently, there are about 2.5 million girl scouts in the country. The GSP national headquarters is located in Ermita, Manila.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

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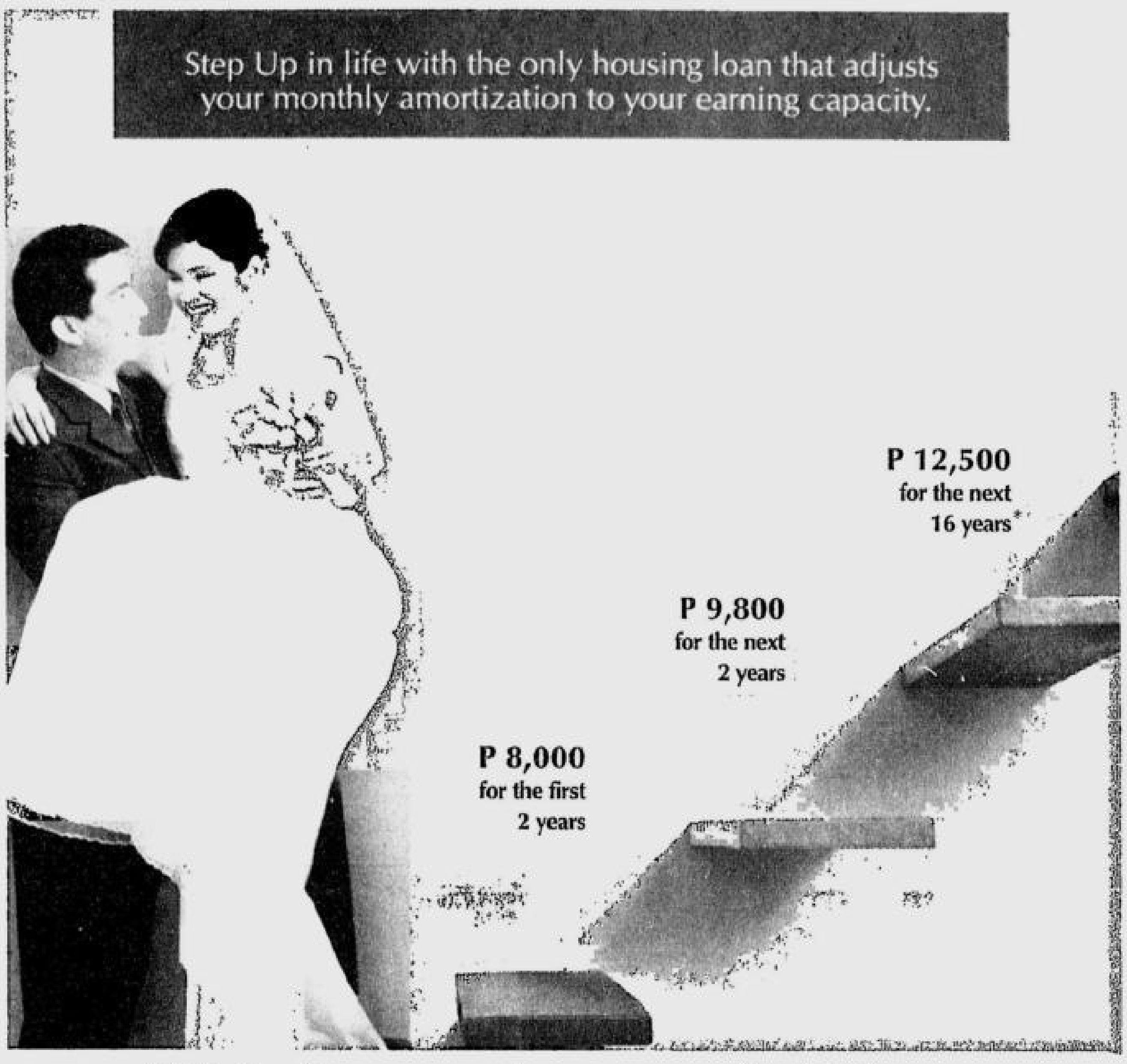

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UP president orders fraternities: Justify your existence

By Jeannette I. Andrade

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES president Emerlinda Roman has ordered fraternities in all of the university's campuses nationwide to "justify their continued existence within the UP system."

Roman's directive was contained in Administrative Order PERR-07-80 which she issued on Wednesday following a meeting with other UP Diliman officials.

Among the matters discussed during the meeting was the recent death of Cris Anthony Mendez, a senior public administration student, who was believed to be a victim of hazing.

Mendez was declared dead on arrival on Aug. 27 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where the attending doctor took notice of the numerous bruises on his arms and legs. A witness recently surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation to confirm reports that Mendez had joined the Sigma Rho fraternity and was set to attend the initiation rites a few days before his death.

Roman's order, which was addressed to all chancellors of UP campuses nationwide, directed them "to serve notice on all fraternities within your campuses and to demand from them, within 15 days from their receipt of your request but no later than Oct. 19, a justification of their continued existence within the University of the Philippines system."

As administrators, the chancellors were responsible for ensuring that students "remain safe from those who exhibit the propensity for violence," she said.

"The ability to torture, whether physical or psychological, has never been a trait of the *iskolar ng bayan* (scholar of the nation). The lack of respect for human lives has no place within the environment of academic excellence. Fundamental rights to organize and express oneself are not absolute. Conspiracies that lead to senseless deaths and violence are never legal," her order read.

As soon as all fraternities comply with her order, a forum will be held "to seriously consider a fundamental shift in policy regarding fraternities and similar organizations," it added.

The order, however, did not say what sanctions would be imposed on groups that fail to justify their existence.

An official of the university who requested anonymity told the INQUIRER that they have not yet received any guidance for determining whether or not the justifications given by a fraternity are valid.

But the official stressed that "the university has the right to discipline its students. This is part of that."

"In spite of our present rules and the promises that have been made by fraternities through their covenants and manifestos, violence still occurs within and among them through hazing, rumbles and other activities that are not sanctioned by our rules and by the law," Roman said.

She criticized the fraternities believed to be involved in the death of Mendez and another student from UP Los Baños, Marlon Villanueva, calling their response to the incidents as proof of "their callousness and inhumanity."

"Brutality and callousness are the natural results of a culture of misguided secrecy, loyalty and violence," Roman added.

She called on the officers of the two fraternities to cooperate with UP officials and the families of the victims to get at the truth.

3 students looking for laughs arrested for theft in Pasig City

By Kristine L. Alave

POLICE YESTERDAY ARRESTED THREE students from private schools on Taft Ave., Pasay City after a call center agent in Ortigas Business District, Pasig City accused them of robbing her.

The three suspects, who are in the custody of the Pasig City police, were identified as Rolando Andrada, 25; Miguel Eduardo Garcia, 19; and Enjo Urdaneta, 20.

Pasig City police chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, said it appeared that the suspects were from well-off families and that they staged the robbery just to amuse themselves.

Garcia is enrolled in the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde while Andrada and Urdaneta are students of the Philippine Women's University.

Uyami identified the complainant as Jaziel Araque, 22, a call center employee and a resident of Barangay San Jose, Pasig City.

Araque said she was walking on Meralco Ave. at around 2:30 a.m. yesterday when a white Toyota RAV-4 with plate number ZBB 258 stopped near her. A man got out, placed an arm on her shoulder while another one grabbed her bag.

Uyami said policemen on patrol saw the incident and chased the suspects. They later recovered Araque's bag, cell phone and other valuables from the three men.

Urdaneta and Garcia told the police that the robbery was an impulsive act on their part.

LOOKING FOR A HOME A store owner puts a Dalmatian puppy inside a cage at the Aranque Market in Manila. Several stalls in the market, which reopened recently after undergoing rehabilitation, sell pets ranging from dogs and cats to birds. REM ZAMORA

Makati police eye inside job angle in botched rob try

By DJ Yap

THE POLICE OF MAKATI ARE LOOKING into the possibility that Wednesday's botched robbery on a busy intersection which left two men dead and two others wounded was an inside job.

Makati police chief, Supt. Gilbert Cruz, said it was likely that the six suspects, who remained at large, had known in advance that their targets were carrying more than P6 million after a visit to the bank.

But he refused to identify any particular group or individual that might have been responsible for the attack and added that other angles were being pursued.

Cruz said they would interview at least three persons who witnessed the incident at the intersection of Gil Puyat and Makati Avenue at past noon Wednesday.

"We will show them pictures of possible suspects," the police official told the INQUIRER over the phone.

On Wednesday, a driver and a bystander were gunned down while two others were wounded after the suspects opened fire at their target, a blue-gray Isuzu D-Max, the police said.

Aboard the vehicle were driver Jon Jon Flores, 29, and two other employees who work for businessman Benjamin Bitanga, who was not in the car at the time of the incident.

The employees had just withdrawn P6.626 million from the International Exchange Bank and were on their way back to their office when the attack occurred, the police said.

Flores and a bystander identified as Erlindo Barroga were killed while the two other employees who were rushed to the M-Tech Medical Hospital are now in stable condition, Cruz said.

The cash was left intact in the Isuzu and returned in full to Bitanga on the same day.

Woman, 3 men wanted for killing criminology student

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR A WOMan and three men believed to be her relatives for the death of a criminology student in Quezon City last month.

The victim, Gary Bautista, 18, a resident of Cainta, Rizal, was shot by the men inside the car of the woman, said to be his girlfriend, on Jupiter St., Barangay Bahay Toro on Aug. 26.

Bystanders rushed him to the Quezon City General Hospital where he died three days later. Police said the victim was able to tell his cousin, Ronnie Cernechez, what happened to him.

According to Cernechez, Bautista received a text message from his girlfriend, April Ann Garingco of San Miguel, Pasig, asking him to meet her at a mall in Cainta, Rizal, on Aug. 26.

Cernechez told the police that Garingco picked up the victim at the mall on her van. On their way to Quezon City, Garingco stopped the vehicle and got out of the car, saying she was going to fix the side mirror.

According to Cernechez, three men then entered the vehicle. One of them took over the wheel while Garingco sat at the back. They later shot Bautista in the back of the head and dumped him at Barangay Bahay Toro.

Police said they were investigating reports that the victim had gotten his girlfriend pregnant and that this had angered her relatives who have yet to be identified.

Palma witnesses summoned

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation has summoned the witnesses in the case of Geraldine Palma, the 7-year-old girl who was kidnapped, raped and killed by her captors.

The NBI Special Task Force, which is in charge of the case, said it has issued subpoenas to Rosdam Mesias, Domingo Agnote and Norberta Legado who earlier identified Henry Tesado as the alleged mastermind.

The bureau, meanwhile, said that they have already obtained clearance from the Parañaque City health office to exhume the victim's body and subject it to a DNA test.

The girl's parents earlier asked the NBI to conduct its own investigation of the case after the Manila Police District said that the body which was found inside a suitcase last month in North Harbor, Tondo was not that of Palma.

The police said a check with St. Paul College, where Palma was enrolled, showed that she was only 3 feet, 10 inches tall. The body inside the suitcase measured 4 feet, 2 inches.

METROBRIEFS

Man's body found in bay

THE BODY of a man believed to be a Korean national was found floating in Manila Bay yesterday morning. Case investigator Manuel Sarmiento of the Manila Police District homicide division said a security guard of Seafood Wharf on Roxas Boulevard discovered the corpse at 6 a.m. Sarmiento said that vendors spotted the unidentified man, who was wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a green pair of pants and black socks, strolling in Rizal Park earlier. He added that they will coordinate with the Korean Embassy to determine the identity of the victim whose body was taken to Popular Funeral Homes for an autopsy.

Allison W. Lopez

1 killed, 4 hurt in trike mishap

A MAN was killed while four others were injured when a tricycle driver lost control of his vehicle after midnight in Valenzuela City yesterday, Insp. Alfonso de Guzman, of the city's Traffic Enforcement Unit, said the driver, Danilo Adayag of Canumay, Valenzuela City, who was one of those hurt, was charged with homicide and serious physical injuries at the city's prosecutor's office. De Guzman identified the fatality, who was one of Adayag's passengers, as Godofredo Villa, of Punturin Valenzuela City. Those injured, on the other hand, were Godofredo Villa, Marcelo Fajardo and Faustino Cainoy, all residents of the city. Investigation showed that Adayag was driving fast when he tried to overtake another tricycle and lost control of his vehicle. *Nancy Carvajal*

'Prayer for World Peace' in QC

AN INTER-FAITH "Prayer for World Peace" will be held by the Centre for Peace at the Rotary peace monument inside the Quezon Memorial Circle today. The activity is part of the International Day of Peace celebrations mandated by the United Nations, according to Don Flordeliza, founder of the center. This year's event will be spearheaded by All-Filipino Interfaith Congress national chair Nilo Tayag, who, like Flordeliza, is a former rebel-turned-peace advocate. Various civic and religious organizations are participating in the event, with the support of Quezon City officials and national leaders. The "Kalinaw: Panaghoy sa Mindanao," a series of activities advocating peace, will be held simultaneously in Digos City today.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Materials for Various Philippine Navy Projects

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the **BSSD Fund under GHQ MFO AA Nr. JB0982 2007 MOD 0700 and CY 2007 PN Appropriations**, intends to apply the sum as stated below being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Philippine Navy Projects. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

Nomenclature/ Activity	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (Non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline for Submission/ Opening of Bids	
LOT 1 – Supply & Delivery of Materials for the Construction of Base Admin Building	Php 9,324,154.45	Sept. 26, 2007 9.00 AM	Oct. 09, 2007 9.00 AM	Php 3,000.00
LOT 2 – Supply & Delivery of Construction Materials for the Rehabilitation of NS Ulugan Facilities & Installation of Navigational Bouy	Php 1,678,602.90			Php 1,000.00
LOT 3 – Supply & Delivery of Construction Materials for the Repair of Gymnasium and Mortuary at BNS	Php 2,685,930.00			Php 3,000.00

2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines now invites Eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Materials for Various Philippine Navy Projects**. Delivery of the goods being procured and description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II and Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PN BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*, Monday to Friday**.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount mentioned in Para 1. The method of payment will be ***in the form of cash*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *Armed Forces of the Philippines* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 26, 2007, 9:00 AM at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.**
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 9, 2007, 9:00 AM** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Surety Bond or Manager's Check. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be on **October 9, 2007, 9:00 AM at Office of the PN Bids and Awards Committee, Bonifacio Naval Station, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI – September 21, 2007)

LB (Land Bank) Realty Development Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC) through its Committee on Bids and Award (CBA), invites all contractors registered and with CIAP registration classified at least "(SMALL/MEDIUM)" by Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant for eligibility and to bid for the following projects

BRANCH OFFICE	CONTRACT DURATION/ SOURCE OF FUND	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
LBP — MALAYBALAY (BUKIDNON) BRANCH DEMOLITION WORKS	30 CD, LBP FUND	P 263,480.98
LBP — TANAUAN BRANCH CONSTRUCTION-SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF STEEL DECKING	15 CD, LBP FUND	P 263,050.00

The Schedule of CBA activites are as follows:

	Activities	Date/Time	Venue
1	Receipt from prospective bidders of LOI including Application for Eligibility & Issuance of Eligibility Forms	SEPT. 21-28, 2007 @ 9:30-4:30 PM	LBRDC
2	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	OCT. 01, 2007 @ 3:30 PM	LBRDC
3.	Issuance of Bid Documents	OCT. 03 - 10, 2007 @ 9.30-4:30 PM	LBRDC
4.	Pre-Bid Conference	OCT 12, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	LBRDC
5	Submission of Bid Docs/Deadline of Dropping of Bids	OCT. 24, 2007 @ 9.30-12 00 NN	LBRDC
6.	Opening of Bids (Bidding)	OCT. 24, 2007 @ 2:00 PM	LBRDC

Eligibility Forms at the Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC), 30/F Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M H del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts. Malate, Manila upon their submission of LOI, presentation of his contractor's license, and upon payment of non-refundable/non-transferable processing amount of P500.00 Bid Documents are available for issuance to eligible bidders as scheduled above upon presentation of Notice of Eligibility to the CBA and payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

LBRDC reserves the right to change the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC), date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission and opening of bids.

LBRDC likewise reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous to LBRDC. Furthermore, LBRDC is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

For further details, please call Mr. Allan Redondo/Aries L. Mendoza/Nenette Camingawan at 405-7169/405-7402/405-7135.

(Sgd.) ENGR. SERGIO R. BERNARDO
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI--Sept. 21, 2007)

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18 September 2007

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For inquiries on the Terms of Reference, please contact Ms. Rosalie Ayag at telephone number 435-1316.

(Sgd.) MARTIN V. GREGORIO
Resident Manager

(PDI – September 21, 2007)

Pakistan sets presidential election for Oct. 6

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN'S ELECTION commission Thursday named Oct. 6 as the date for a presidential poll in which embattled military ruler Pervez Musharraf will seek reelection in uniform.

Musharraf said through his lawyer earlier this week that if he wins another five-year term as president he will stand down as chief of the Army, his main backer since he seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999.

But the opposition vowed legal action to block the vote, saying that Musharraf, a key US ally in the "war on terror" whose popularity has slumped in recent months, should quit the military beforehand.

"Nominations must be filed by Sept. 27, the scrutiny of the nominations will be on Sept. 29 and Oct. 6 will be the election," the commission's secretary Kanwar Dilshad said.

The election is not by universal suffrage but by a ballot of Pakistan's parliament and its four provincial assemblies, which have all been in place since 2002.

Opposition parties have called for Musharraf to seek reelection from a new parliament instead of the outgoing assemblies and have also threatened to resign from the assembly if he does not quit his military role before a vote.

The government said it had enough seats to reelect Musharraf anyway.

"The election dates have been announced, God willing we will reelect him, we have got the majority, we have got the strength," Information Minister Muhammad Ali Durrani said.

"It's a step towards democracy."

The Supreme Court is currently hearing a series of legal challenges against Musharraf's dual role and his eligibility to stand in the election. It is expected to rule on Friday.

The president has been embroiled in crisis since he tried to sack the country's independent-minded chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, who was reinstated after leading a mass protest campaign.

Musharraf has been trying to forge a power-sharing deal with self-exiled former premier Benazir Bhutto, but her party has strongly rejected his announcement that he will seek reelection without first leaving the Army.

Her Pakistan People's Party was not immediately available for comment on the election schedule. *AFP*

MUSHARRAF, in undated photo, will give up his Army post soon after reelection as president according to a government lawyer on Sept. 18. AP

US bill to give legal status to illegal immigrant students

WASHINGTON—A BILL TO OFFER legal status to illegal immigrant students who have graduated from high school was revived this week in the Senate, the first effort to advance a piece of broad immigration legislation that failed in June.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., who is an author of the student measure, said Wednesday that he would try this week to offer it as an amendment to the defense authorization bill under debate in the Senate. The measure would provide a path to permanent legal status for illegal immigrant students who came to the United States before they were 16 years old, graduated from high school in good standing and agreed to serve in the military or attend college for at least two years.

Both supporters and opponents of the measure said it would serve as a test on whether legislation giving legal status to illegal immigrants can pass Congress this year, in light of the strong opposition from conservative voters who defeated the larger bill. Opponents rejected that bill as an amnesty that would reward immigrants who broke the law.

Durbin, speaking Tuesday on the Senate floor, described his measure as "narrowly tailored" and said it would help resolve "a very serious recruitment crisis" for the military.

Supporters, who called the measure the Dream Act, said it could pass the Senate because it is intended to benefit young people who grow up in the United States and are illegal immigrants as a result of decisions by their parents.

But Steve Elliott, president of Grassfire.org, a conservative website whose members mobilized against the June bill, sent out an alert last week calling the student measure a "blatant deception on the part of the Senate to get a massive amnesty passed." *NYT*

Bin Laden to declare war on Pakistani president

CAIRO, EGYPT—OSAMA BIN Laden will release a new message soon declaring war on Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, al-Qaida announced Thursday.

The announcement of the upcoming message came as al-Qaida released a new video in which Bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, boasted that the United States was being defeated in Afghanistan, Iraq and other fronts. Speakers in the video promised more fighting in Afghanistan, North Africa and Sudan's Darfur region.

The messages are part of a stepped-up propaganda campaign by al-Qaida around the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Earlier this month, Bin Laden released two messages—including his first new appearance in a video in nearly three years.

A banner posted on an Islamic militant website on Thursday advertised that another message would be released, though it did not say whether Bin Laden would appear in video or speak in an audiotape.

"Soon, God willing: 'Come to Jihad (holy war),' from sheik Osama bin Laden, God protect him" the banner read.

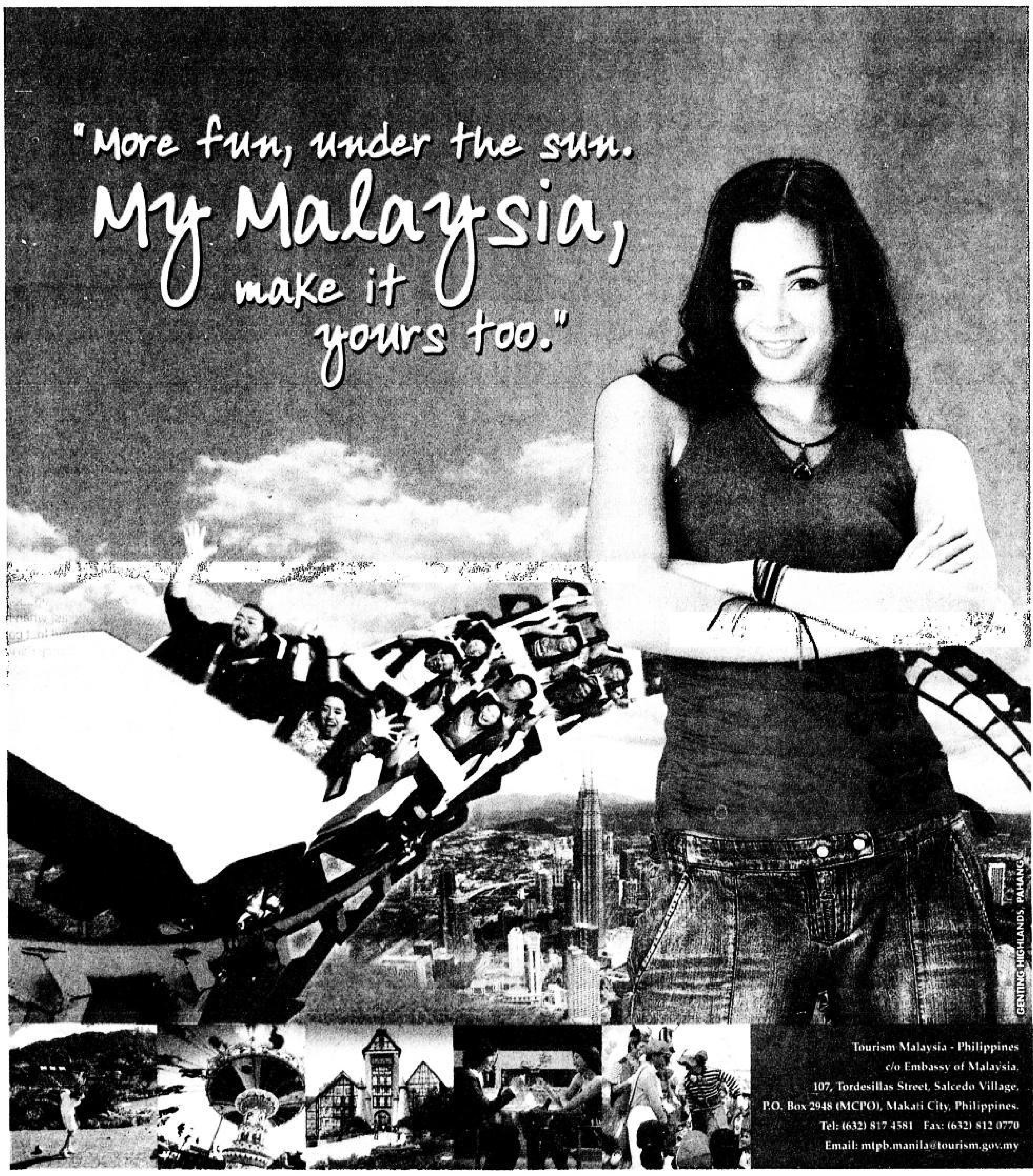
"Urgent, al-Qaida declares war on the tyrant Pervez Musharraf and his apostate army, in the words of Osama bin Laden," it read.

Such advertisements usually precede the release of the video by one to three days, according to IntelCenter, a US counterterrorism group that monitors militant messages.

The 80-minute video released Thursday on the same website was in the style of a documentary, intersplicing the speech by Al-Zawahri with footage from the 9/11 attacks, interviews with experts and officials taken from Western and Arab television stations and old footage and audiotapes of Bin Laden.

Al-Zawahri began by condemning the Pakistani military's July assault on Islamic militants who took over the Red Mosque in Islamabad, and he paid tribute to one of the militants' leaders, Abdul Rashid Ghazi, who was killed in the fighting.

The siege "revealed the extent of the despicableness, lowliness and treason of Musharraf and his forces, who don't deserve the honor of defending Pakistan," Al-Zawahri said. *AP*



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel declares Gaza 'enemy entity'; Hamas calls move war

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL DECLARED THE GAZA Strip an "enemy entity" on Wednesday and said it would reduce its fuel and power supplies to the Hamas-run territory in response to rocket attacks by Palestinian militants.

Hamas described the move, during a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to prepare for a US-led Middle East peace conference, as a declaration of war.

"They aim to starve our people and force them to bow and accept humiliating formulas that could emerge from the so-called November peace conference," Hamas spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said.

Hamas, which seized control of Gaza in June after fighting the forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, has been preparing defenses against a possible Israeli offensive.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said his security Cabinet approved the "enemy entity" classification and there would be "limitations on imports to the Gaza Strip and a reduction in the supply of fuel and electricity."

It gave no starting date for the sanctions and said they would be implemented after Israeli authorities had examined the legal and humanitarian ramifications.

"We are going to ask the Americans to pressure Israel to refrain from taking such action," Palestinian Information Minister Riyad al-Malki said in the West Bank city of Ramallah, where Rice will meet Abbas on Thursday.

Asked about the Israeli move, Rice told a news conference that Washington considered Hamas to be a "hostile entity" but pledged the United States "would not abandon the innocent Palestinians," a reference to humanitarian aid.

Faced with frequent cross-border rocket salvoes which the Israeli military has been unable to stop, Olmert has been under pressure from right-wing members of his coalition to order a broad ground operation in the Gaza Strip to confront militants.

With US encouragement, Israel has said it is keen to bolster Abbas in the West Bank since he dismissed a Hamas-led government three months ago. Defense Minster Ehud Barak said after meeting Rice that Israel would start to remove some West Bank security barriers to answer Palestinian concerns.

The 24 barriers to be removed may fall short of hopes among Abbas' supporters for a major easing of curbs on movement posed by more than 500 checkpoints and other obstacles in the territory.

By formally defining Gaza as enemy territory, Israel could argue that it cannot be bound by international law to supply utilities to its 1.5 million people. Israel withdrew troops and settlers in 2005 but Palestinians say Gaza is still occupied because Israel controls its air, land and sea borders. *Reuters*

BLACK smoke billows from burning cars at the site of a car bomb in a Christian suburb of Beirut that killed anti-Syrian Lebanese deputy Antoine Ghanem and seven others on Sept. 19. AFP

Beirut car bomb kills anti-Syrian MP, 7 others

BEIRUT—A CAR BOMB KILLED AN ANTI-Syrian lawmaker and at least seven other people in Beirut on Wednesday, less than a week before Lebanon's parliament was due to elect a new president.

Antoine Ghanem of the Christian Phalange party was killed in a Christian district of the capital in an attack his allies blamed on Damascus. Syria condemned the killing.

Ghanem was the seventh anti-Syrian figure to be killed in Lebanon since the Feb. 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

"Every two or three months we are being targeted," Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, a leading member of the governing coalition who survived an assassination attempt in 2004, said.

At least 30 other people were wounded by the bomb in the commercial and residential area of Sin el-Fil.

US President George W. Bush condemned the "cowardly attack" and said Washington stood in solidarity with the Lebanese people against what he called an attempt by Syria and Iran to destabilize Lebanon. *Reuters*

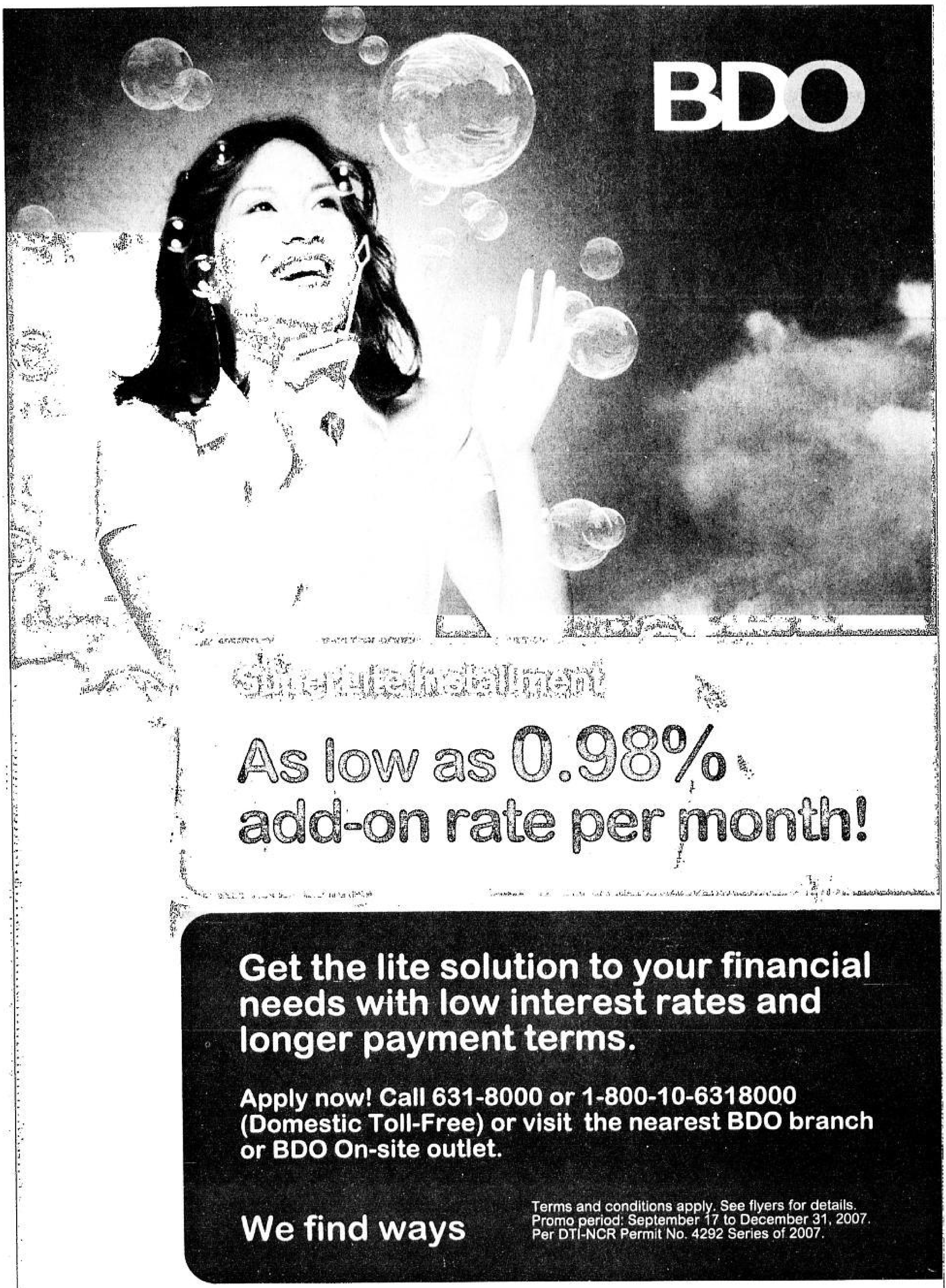
WORLDBRIEFS

Burma monks defy junta anew, hold march

Rangoon—More than 400 Buddhist monks on Thursday marched in the rain in Rangoon under tight security on the fourth straight day of protests by Burma's clergy against the country's military rulers. Chanting Buddhist prayers, the cinnamon-robed monks arrived at Shwedagon Pagoda, the most important landmark in Burma (also known as Myanmar), after marching past the headquarters of the opposition National League for Democracy, eyewitnesses said. Most of the marchers were in their early 20s and some walked barefoot in the latest in a series of nationwide protests which began on Aug. 19, when a massive hike in fuel prices led to a spike in transport costs. ***AFP***

Netanyahu says Israel behind recent air strike in Syria

JERUSALEM—Israel's media and politicians lambasted former premier Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday for becoming the first official to say Israel was behind the recent air strike deep inside Syria. In an interview with Channel 1 news on Wednesday, the hawkish opposition leader said he had given Prime Minister Ehud Olmert his backing for carrying out the strike, which Syria said happened on Sept. 6. The Israeli government has categorically refused to comment in any way on the reported strike, despite a sea of international media speculation on its target. Netanyahu's apparent slip of the tongue was splashed across the country's dailies and topped the news on radio and television. ***AFP***



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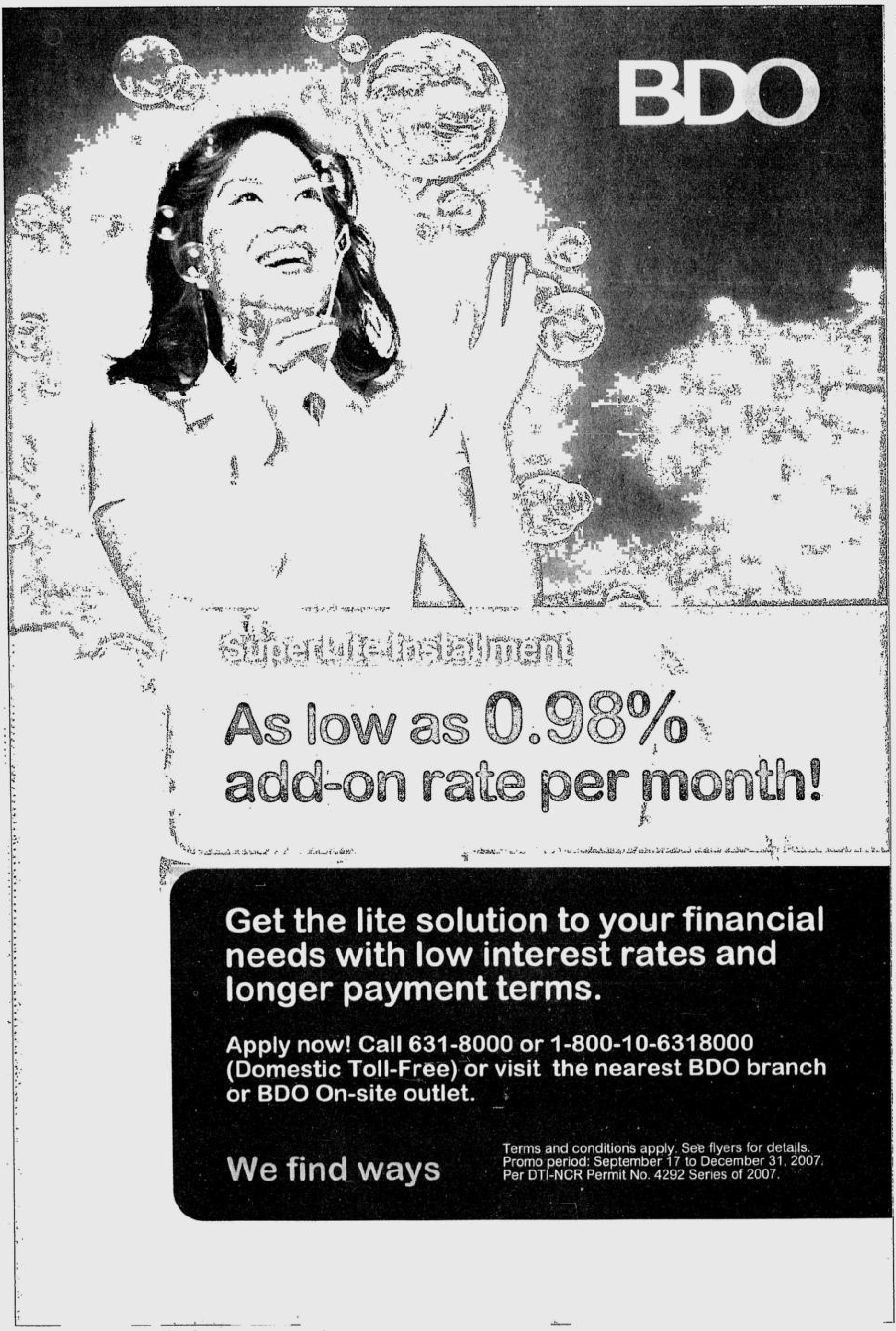

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Coach Joe Lipa marooned /A26

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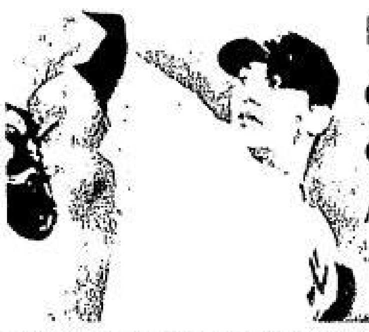

Yanks close in on No. 1 /A27

Laylo zaps GM; Torre crumbles

STANDINGS after two rounds:

2 points—**D. Laylo (RP)**, W. Hao (China), Y.Shaoteng (China), Z.Jun (China), A. Kunte (India); 1.5—**M.Paragua (RP)**, Z. Pengxiang (China), A. Bagheri (Iran), D.T. Hai (Vietnam), M. Mahjoobzardst (Iran), P. Negi (India), Z. Jianchao (China), T. Batchuluun (Mongolia), Z. Jianchao (China),

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—THE CHINESE STARTED TO FLAUNT THEIR might last night even as Filipino International Master Darwin Laylo continued to blaze the comeback trail in the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championship at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

Grandmasters Wang Hao, Yu Shaoteng and Shao Jun downed their respective rivals to share the lead with Laylo and Indian GM Abhijit Kunte, who also notched their second straight wins in the 11-round tournament serving as a qualifier for the World Chess Cup.

The 27-year-old Laylo, returning after serving a six-month ban slapped on him by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines for alleged involvement in game-fixing, beat Indian GM Chanda Sandipan in 46 moves of a Slav to spearhead the Filipinos' bid for the 10 World Cup slots at stake in the region's strongest event.

Laylo's smashing triumph kept local hopes alive after GMs Eugene Torre went down in shock defeat to No. 35 seed IM G.N. Gopal (Elo 2480) and GM Mark Paragua settled for a marathon 75-move draw with FM Tsegmed Batchuluun (Elo 2415) of Mongolia.

GM-candidate Wesley So whipped IM Lanka Ravi of India in 56 moves of the Caro Kann, while IM Oliver Dimakiling overwhelmed FM Duc Trong Dinh of Vietnam to bounce back into contention.

"*Naipit ko siya* (I pinned him down)," said Laylo, a Turin Olympian who is seeking his third and final GM result.

An Armyman and coach of the UST girls' team, Laylo bared that he has beaten even stronger players than Sandipan, citing Russian Super GM Alexander Motylev, whom he beat in 2005, and is eager to compensate for the time and opportunities he lost.

In the end, Laylo, who was co-champion in the 2006 Malaysian Open and shared third in the Bad Wie Zee tournament in Germany in the same year, had two bishops against Sandipan's rook and was on the verge of promoting his pawn in the c-file.

Wao, the third seed with an Elo of 2626, beat Indian GM Das Neelotpal while Yu bested local bet Steven Yap Kim.

Shao thwarted Vietnamese GM Tu Hoang Thong to keep pace with his compatriots, Laylo and Kunte, who mastered Iraqi FM N.A. Hussein.

Paragua tried vainly but eventually settled for a draw of another Slav to be at 1.5 points in the company of second seed GM Zhang Pengxiang, who was held to a draw by Iranian GM Amir Bagheri.

Filipino GM Rogelio 'Joey" Antonio was still playing Indian GM Chakkravarthy Deepan at presstime.

Suprisingly, top seed Chinese GM Ni Hua contiued to struggle, settling for a draw with Filipino National Master Emmanuel Senador after 42 moves of a Sicilian. Ni, who boasts an Elo of 2681, bowed to Iranian IM Morteza Mahjobzardast in the first round.

IM Ronald Bancod suffered his second sraight defeat at the hands of GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly

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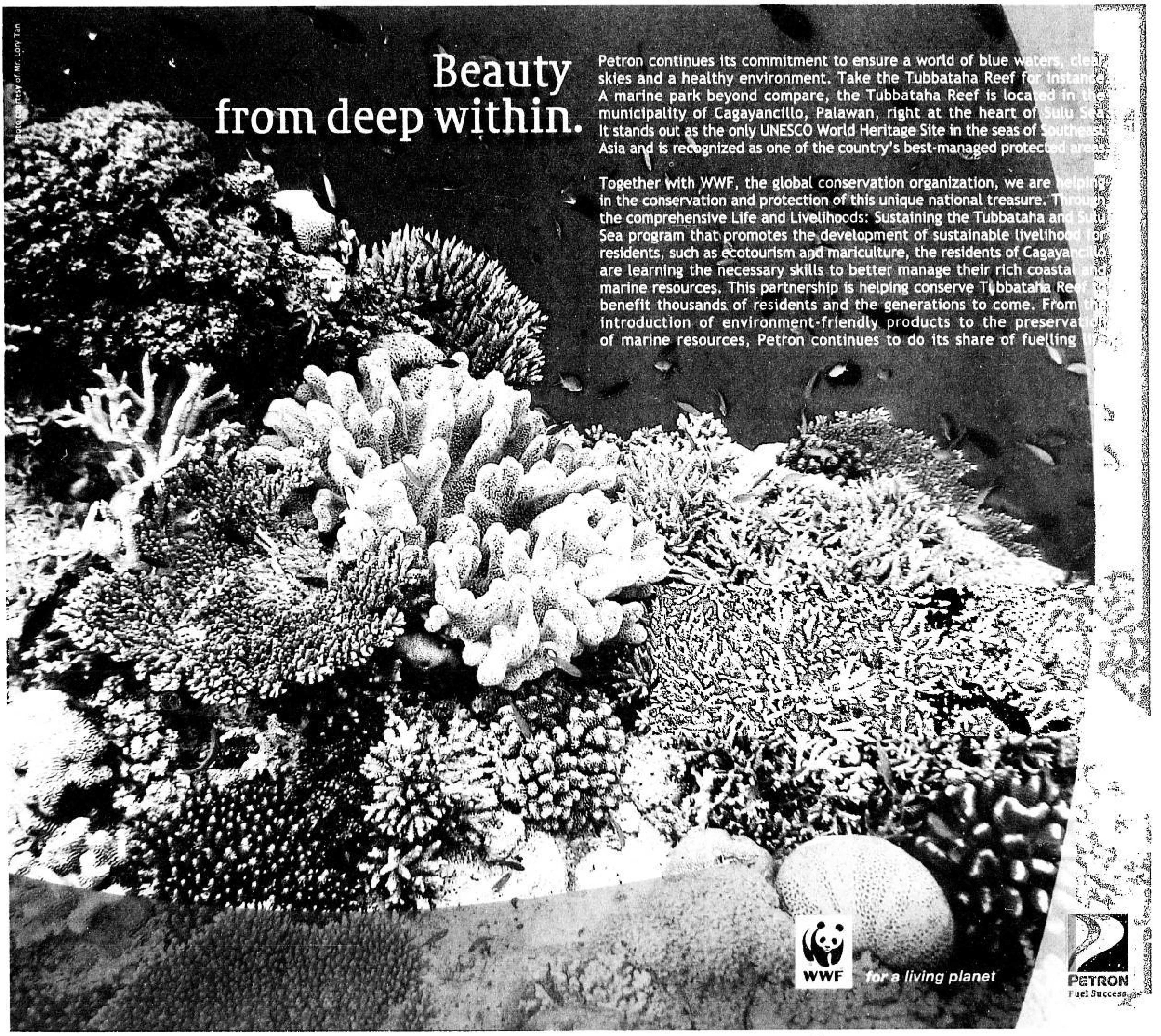

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Pinoy Cuppers battle Kuwaitis Friday

KUWAIT CITY—THE PHILIPPINES embarks on the third phase of its ambitious bid to join the best nations in Davis Cup this weekend when it tangles with Kuwait in the finals of the Asia-Oceania Group II here.

The Filipinos, led by Fil-American ATP campaigners Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino, battle the Kuwaitis in a best-of-five tie starting Friday with no less than a seat in the premier division of the zone, the Group I, at stake.

The group champions from all zones earn qualifying ties for the World Group, composed of the top 16 nations in the world.

The draw for the tie will be held Thursday with the Philippines' non-playing captain Martin Misa and coach Chris Cuarto fielding in Mamiit as the No. 1 player and Taino the No. 2 for the opening singles match.

Mamiit is billed to meet Kuwait No. 2 Ahmad Mohammad while Taino faces No. 1 Mohammad Al Ghareeb.

Thursday's draw will determine who will play first in the matches set at 10 a.m. (3 p.m. in Manila) and 1 p.m.

"The guys are raring to play," said Misa. "I feel they have adapted to the hot and dry weather condition here."

Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla were initially nominated to play in the doubles against Mohammad Khalig Siddig and Ali Ghareeb. The reverse singles will be played Sunday.

Murakami back in the hunt

TAIPEI—AFTER MISSING THE halfway cut last week, Johor Open champion Artemio Murakami bounced back into contention with a one-under-par 71 yesterday at the start of the Mercuries Taiwan Masters.

Murakami was in a five-way tie for fifth place, three strokes behind local amateur Chen Ming-tsuan, who shot a 68 for a two-stroke lead over compatriots Lu Wei-chih and Hsu Mong-nan as well as South African Hendrik Buhrmann who shot matching 70s at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

Malaysia's Danny Chia enjoyed one of his best starts this season to also score a 71 alongside local player Chen Jung-hsing, who is also the coach of Ming-tsuan.

Juvic Pagunsan, last year's Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, was the next best Filipino with a 73 followed by former Vietnam Masters champion Angelo Que who shot a 74 and Gerald Rosales who carded a 76.

Tony Lascuña struggled to a 78 and needs a big round tomorrow to make it to the weekend play.

Coach Lipa marooned

UP's bench veteran gets swift exit

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT TOOK ONLY THREE MINutes for Joe Lipa to get the boot.

In a very brief meeting, the University of the Philippines dismissed Lipa yesterday as head coach after the Maroons' winless campaign in the UAAP men's basketball competition.

"It only took three minutes," a very calm Lipa said. "I'm taking it philosophically. Basketball has been so nice to me. I've created a lot of friends. By the same token, I've created a lot of enemies."

Hercules Callanta, dean of the College of Human Kinetics, will recommend the termination of Lipa's services to the UP chancellor.

The usually fiery coach only had a "handshake agreement" with school officials to mentor the Maroons until 2008, the university's centennial anniversary.

Lipa admitted that there was already a campaign for his ouster weeks before the Maroons ended the elimination round with a 0-14 mark.

"I told them that I tried my best to serve UP," said Lipa. "I don't want to stand in the way of what they think is good for the university."

Lipa, who mentored UP during its only title run in 1986, answered criticisms regarding his coaching style.

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Pinoy Cuppers battle Kuwaitis Friday

KUWAIT CITY—THE PHILIPPINES embarks on the third phase of its ambitious bid to join the best nations in Davis Cup this weekend when it tangles with Kuwait in the finals of the Asia-Oceania Group II here.

The Filipinos, led by Fil-American ATP campaigners Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino, battle the Kuwaitis in a best-of-five tie starting Friday with no less than a seat in the premier division of the zone, the Group I, at stake.

The group champions from all zones earn qualifying ties for the World Group, composed of the top 16 nations in the world.

The draw for the tie will be held Thursday with the Philippines' non-playing captain Martin Misa and coach Chris Cuarto fielding in Mamiit as the No. 1 player and Taino the No. 2 for the opening singles match.

Mamiit is billed to meet Kuwait No. 2 Ahmad Mohammad while Taino faces No. 1 Mohammad Al Ghareeb.

Thursday's draw will determine who will play first in the matches set at 10 a.m. (3 p.m. in Manila) and 1 p.m.

"The guys are raring to play," said Misa. "I feel they have adapted to the hot and dry weather condition here."

Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla were initially nominated to play in the doubles against Mohammad Khalig Siddig and Ali Ghareeb. The reverse singles will be played Sunday.

Murakami back in the hunt

TAIPEI—AFTER MISSING THE halfway cut last week, Johor Open champion Artemio Murakami bounced back into contention with a one-under-par 71 yesterday at the start of the Mercuries Taiwan Masters.

Murakami was in a five-way tie for fifth place, three strokes behind local amateur Chen Ming-tsuan, who shot a 68 for a two-stroke lead over compatriots Lu Wei-chih and Hsu Mong-nan as well as South African Hendrik Buhrmann who shot matching 70s at the Taiwan Golf and Country Club.

Malaysia's Danny Chia enjoyed one of his best starts this season to also score a 71 alongside local player Chen Jung-hsing, who is also the coach of Ming-tsuan.

Juvic Pagunsan, last year's Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, was the next best Filipino with a 73 followed by former Vietnam Masters champion Angelo Que who shot a 74 and Gerald Rosales who carded a 76.

Tony Lascuña struggled to a 78 and needs a big round tomorrow to make it to the weekend play.

Coach Lipa marooned

UP's bench veteran gets swift exit

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT TOOK ONLY THREE MINUTES for Joe Lipa to get the boot.

In a very brief meeting, the University of the Philippines dismissed Lipa yesterday as head coach after the Maroons' winless campaign in the UAAP men's basketball competition.

"It only took three minutes," a very calm Lipa said. "I'm taking it philosophically. Basketball has been so nice to me. I've created a lot of friends. By the same token, I've created a lot of enemies."

Hercules Callanta, dean of the College of Human Kinetics, will recommend the termination of Lipa's services to the UP chancellor.

The usually fiery coach only had a "handshake agreement" with school officials to mentor the Maroons until 2008, the university's centennial anniversary.

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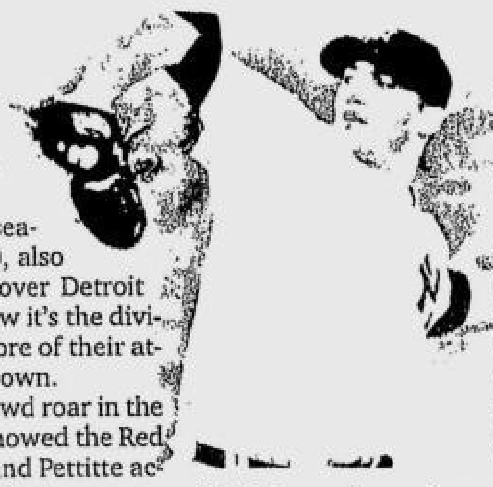
Yanks close in on No. 1

Pettitte gets 200th win



YANKEES' Andy Pettitte fires a pitch against the Orioles. AFP

NEW YORK—ANDY PETTITTE GOT A milestone ball from Mariano Rivera and the lineup card from manager Joe Torre.

The New York Yankees got another step closer to the top of the AL East.

Pettitte earned his 200th win, Rivera escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning and the Yankees edged the Baltimore Orioles 2-1 Wednesday night to complete a three-game sweep that pulled them within 1 1/2 games of first-place Boston.

"We're right there and we want to win it," Pettitte said. "We would like to win this division but just thankful we're playing good."

Hideki Matsui homered and Doug Mientkiewicz scored on a wild pitch for New York, which has won four straight and 12 of 14.

"We spent an early portion of this year trying to find our way," Torre said, "and now that when we come to the ballpark we expect to win, it's a nice feeling."

The Yankees (88-64), a season-high 24 games over .500, also opened a 5 1/2-game lead over Detroit (83-70) for the wild card. Now it's the division race that is capturing more of their attention as the season winds down.

Torre said he heard the crowd roar in the ninth when the scoreboard showed the Red Sox were losing at Toronto, and Pettitte acknowledged checking on the Boston game.

It's the closest New York has been to first place since the Yankees trailed by one game before play on April 20. They began play on May 30 down by 14 1/2 games to Boston.

"Four months ago, nobody gave us credit. And now we're close to winning the division," Rivera said.

Melvin Mora hit an RBI single in the sixth for Baltimore, cutting New York's lead to 2-1. Mora advanced on a groundout, but Pettitte retired Nick Markakis on an inning-ending flyout.

Pettitte (14-8) got the first two outs of the eighth before giving way to rookie Joba Chamberlain, who had never entered in the middle of an inning. Pettitte trotted off the field to a thunderous ovation from the Yankee Stadium crowd and doffed his cap as he reached the dugout. *AP*

Local ousts Hingis from China Open

BEIJING—MARTINA HINGIS WAS upset by local favorite Peng Shuai, 7-5, 6-1, at the China Open on Wednesday, while defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova withdrew with a stomach injury.

Kuznetsova dropped out before her second-round match against American Abigail Spears.

"When I got up this morning, my abdomen was getting worse and worse although I received treatment yesterday," said Kuznetsova, the top seed.

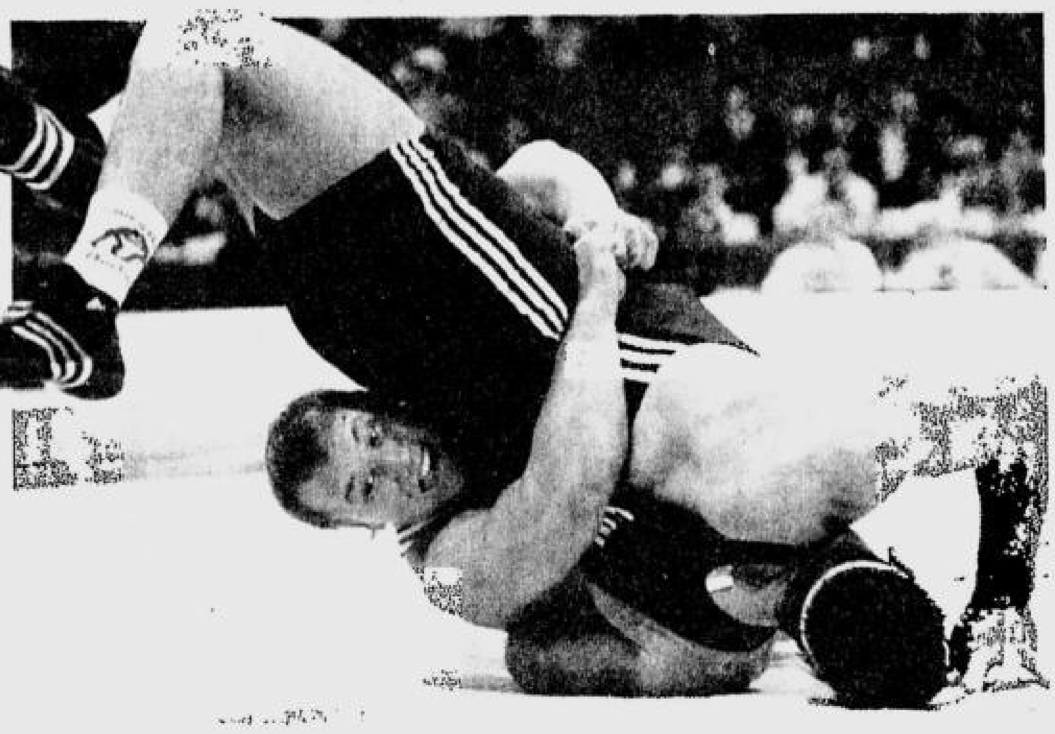
Maria Emilia Salerni of Argentina, who replaced Kuznetsova, went on to beat Spears, 6-2, 7-5.

Also, third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo beat Ioana Raluca Olaru, 6-2, 6-2, in a second-round match, and Lindsay Davenport topped fellow American Julie Ditty, 6-0, 6-2, in a first-rounder.

Meanwhile, attendance at the U.S. Open rose 12 percent to a record 715,587 this year, and the tennis tournament's official website drew more than 30 million visits for the first time.

The event's previous high total attendance was 659,538 in 2005.

The number of player-challenged line calls also increased 40 percent, from 229 in 2006, to 320 this year. Players were right 31 percent of the time, the same rate as last year. *AP*



FOR TOUGH MEN ONLY

Armenia's Yuri Patrikeev (bottom) wrestles with Hungary's Mihaly Deak-Bardos in their men's Greco-Roman style 120kg bronze medal match at the Senior Wrestling World Championship in Baku, Azerbaijan. Patrikeev won. REUTERS

Kirilenko wants to leave Jazz

UTAH—ANDREI KIRILENKO'S TRADE DEMAND, made in a blog posting on a Russian website Tuesday, were the words of the Jazz's frustrated forward, The Salt Lake Tribune confirmed. The trade demand was more than a year in the making and would have probably come last season, except Kirilenko opted to keep quiet with the Jazz enjoying a successful season. Kirilenko was said to be unable to stomach the thought of returning to Utah, especially after playing for Russia's European championship winning team. *Salt Lake Tribune*

Norman, wife formally end 25-year marriage

STUART, FLA.—GREG NORMAN AND his ex-wife settled their divorce after 25 years of marriage, a contentious split marked by a dispute over money and assets.

The star golfer and Laura Andrassy reached an agreement this month, and a judge completed the confidential settlement Friday.

"Their marriage has been dissolved," Andrassy's lawyer, Russell Ferraro Jr., said.

Norman's lawyer, Martin L. Haines, III, said his client hoped the settlement "will quell some of emotionalism ."

Norman, 52, and tennis great Chris Evert, who also recently divorced, have been romantically linked. During a golf event in Australia last year, Norman said they are "very, very close friends."

Norman and Andrassy will return to court to determine how they will split the tax liability on Norman's jet and whether Andrassy is entitled to additional money she claims she lost because of delays in completing the divorce. *AP*

Unheralded tandem takes out Pagulayan, partner

JOMAR DE OCAMPO AND JESS DACORO ousted the favored tandem of Alex Pagulayan and partner Jason Aperin, 9-7, yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the San Miguel Corp. Scotch Doubles 10-ball at the Elbowroom in Metrowalk, Pasig City.

De Ocampo and Dacoro surged to an early 6-2 lead in the race-to-9 duel which proved decisive in knocking out Pagulayan, the 2004 Taiwan World 9-Ball champion and 2005 US Open champion, and the unknown Asperin.

"*Nakauna agad kami sa kanila* (We surprised them with a good start)," said De Ocampo after the match which kept him and Dacoro in contention for the P140,000 winner's purse.

De Ocampo and Dacoro will next battle Carlo Biado and Mark Mendoza, who ousted Russian Petiza and Conrado Pumikpik, 9-4.

In another match, Roberto Dy and Jech Jech Limen nipped Benjie Guevarra and Eduardo Lim, 9-8.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

UCAA: Jaguars shade Blue Lions

THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS Administration Jaguars nipped the Las Piñas College Blue Lions, 63-61, yesterday to boost its Final Four bid in the sixth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketball tournament at the Olivarez Sports Complex in Parañaque.

The Jaguars leaned on the heroics of Thirdy Pabillore and Dudz Dizon in the last 18 seconds as they posted their fourth consecutive win to tie for second place with defending champion Emilio Aguinaldo College at 7-4.

Olivarez College upset EAC, 73-65.

In men's volleyball, defending champion La Salle-Dasmariñas beat St. Francis of Assisi College, 17-25, 25-21, 25-22, 22-25, 16-14.

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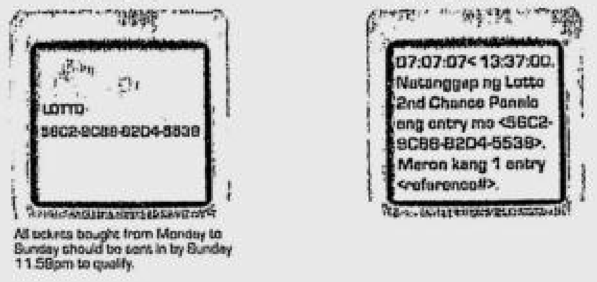

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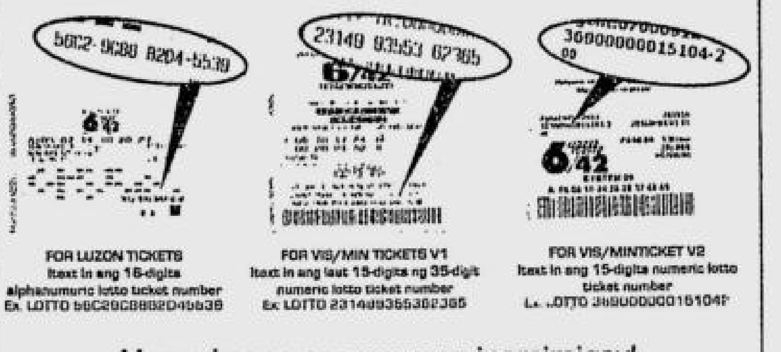

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   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Draws will be announced on leading newspapers.
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   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
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4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.
5. Prizes above P10,000 subject to government tax.

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The Name is Domeçq: A Classic Offering from the House of Domecq

Domecq. The illustrious name glides off one's tongue the way an excellent brandy slides down one's throat. Usually uttered in hushed, reverent tones among brandy connoisseurs, the name Pedro Domecq has become synonymous with the phrase "tradition of quality". Knowledge of the Domecq fame has been verbally passed on from father to son over generations, as seasoned elders recount and share their memorable Domecq experiences with the up and coming generation of loyal drinkers.

For nearly two hundred years, the celebrated House of Domecq has been seducing the palate of the ever-discerning wine aficionado by bottling wines and spirits of exemplary quality. So remarkable were these concoctions and vintages that even Spanish and English royalty have been known to favor and savor the robust tastes of Domecq wines and spirits. Pedro Domecq's fine products have truly traveled the world, exported in large quantities to different corners of the globe, satisfying the cravings of drinkers from different continents. From Northern Europe to the Americas to the flourishing Asian markets, Domecq's multi-awarded spirits and wines brands have certainly become the benchmark by which other manufacturers measure and compare their own products to. In the Philippines, Domecq brandies continue to lead the way, becoming icons of excellence and incomparable taste.

The Name

But the many accolades and prestigious honors given by the international spirit industry did not come instantly for the House of Domecq. In fact, the Domecq story goes back centuries, and serves as an example of true pioneering spirit and determination. The year was 1820, and provincial French nobleman Pedro Domecq crossed the border into Spain where he came across a stirring vision: To set up a bodega of the finest wines and spirits in Spain. The mental blueprint of this bodega was so very clear in his mind's eye that, just two years later, Domecq decided to make his ambition real. It was then that he acquired a precious piece of land in Andalucia, Spain, and forged the foundations of the distinguished company called "Pedro Domecq".

The romance of Jerez de la Frontera, where hectares and hectares of fertile, rolling hills meet the cool ocean breeze to produce most of Spain's valuable sherry grapes, became the backdrop of the country's world-famous-and now centuries-old-brandy-making tradition. After all, it was within the hallowed walls of the Domecq bodegas that Spanish brandy was first discovered.

Thanks to his innovatory spirit and courageous vision, Pedro Domecq revolutionized the wines and spirits market. In fact, it is quite safe to assume three things: one, that the history of Brandy de Jerez is closely entwined with the history of the Domecq family; two, that Brandy de Jerez is the most popular Spanish brandy in the market today; and three, that Domecq brandies are probably the most sought-after in the world, recognized for their excellent and enduring qualities.

The Method

Domecq brandies go through a meticulous ageing and fractional blending method indigenous only to Jerez. This time-honored process is called the "Solera System". Massive oak casks, previously used to store sweet-tasting sherry wine in the late-19th century, are now devoted to maturing distilled wine into brandy. These durable oaken barrels are stacked in rows, with the bottom-most row of barrels resting on the cool earthen floors of the cavernous bodegas. The bottom row of barrels, called the "Soleras", actually contain the oldest, and most flavorful brandies.

In simple terms, the Solera System marries the tastes of the same spirit-but of differing maturity. Whenever spirits are drawn for bottling from the "Soleras", it is then refreshed by the addition of a younger spirit from the "Criadera" above it. Even though the younger vintages may be less complex, the two liquids continue ageing and intermingling in a single oak barrel, with their tastes coming together. The younger spirits take on the characteristics of the older ones, refining the taste over time. Not surprisingly, being the first brandy bodega in Jerez it only follows that the House of Domecq boasts some of the region's oldest "Soleras". The result of the distinctive process is a complex and rich combination that never fails to dazzle the palate.

As this unique system of blending ensures that no particular quality of any distilled wine overshadows another, continuous quality and style is maintained. In fact, a single bottle of brandy may actually be a delightful blend of brandies withdrawn from four or more Soleras-with each aged Solera being supported by a series of younger Criaderas. The intermingling of matured brandies assures the brandy-lover that his flavor expectations will be met with every bottle.

Authorization and Classifications

The production, ageing, and distribution of brandies in Jerez are vigilantly monitored by the Consejo Regulador, the governing authority on all things pertaining to Brandy de Jerez. Brandies that do not meet the unwavering standards of the Consejo, will not enjoy the endorsement from the influential group (incidentally composed of representatives from the manufacturers themselves) and cannot carry the marking of "Brandy de Jerez". The Consjeo Regulador has established three official classifications of Brandy de Jerez: Solera, Solera Reserva and Solera Gran Reserva.

The Consejo has defined a Solera as a brandy made from "holandas" (or distilled wine) aged for a period averaging one year. The superior Solera Reserva category, are brandies also made with select "holandas", but have been blended and aged for a longer period, averaging a good 3 years of steady maturation. The legendary Solera Gran Reservas of Jerez undergo prolonged and painstaking ageing that lasts many, many years.

The Superior Standard

Now, the established name in fine wines and brandies introduces a new soon-to-be-celebrated name to local shores: Domecq 1820. So perfect is its balance of intensity and silkiness that this is the only Solera Reserva deemed worthy of bearing the esteemed Pedro Domecq's name. Truly, the new superior standard in brandy has arrived.

The rich history, steadfast commitment, and brandy-making expertise of the House of Domecq flawlessly come together in every bottle of Domecq 1820. A rare and select Solera Reserva Brandy, Domecq 1820 undergoes an average of three years of ageing in the Solera System. One only has to glance at its deep, amber color to immediately know that this pleasing blend is indeed aged much longer than the standard Solera brandy. Without a doubt, it is the bottled embodiment of two hundred years of brandy-making tradition.

From its sleek bottle, to its striking red, black and gold box, Domecq 1820 exudes elegance. Produced, aged, and bottled in Spain, Domecq 1820 boasts a smooth taste, sweet aroma, and a full-bodied finish. Its nose is undeniably distinguished, inviting, and lasting. A harmonious, fruity taste with delightful hints of sherry, vanilla, and oak, characterize this extraordinary Pedro Domecq brandy.

The Tribute

When swirling in your brandy snifter, you can expect the velvety, deep amber hues of Domecq 1820 to invoke vivid images of radiant Andalusian sunshine, passionate flamenco dancers, and powerfully-built horses racing along the vista. The robust and enticing bouquet flowing in one's nose will stir images of the vast Domecq bodegas, lined with oak barrels older than the turn of the century. The specially-matured spirit cupped in your palm will quickly warm your soul and infuse you with legendary Spanish passion. Every golden sip enters effortlessly, leading to a luxurious palate, and finishing with a subtle, lingering grace. This smooth, full-bodied Solera Reserva brandy is a fitting tribute to an influential man gifted with far-reaching vision and exceptional resolve.

Domecq 1820. Premium Aged by Pedro Domecq.

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Master Brandy Maker Pedro Domecq proudly bestows his name on this extraordinary Solera Reserva.

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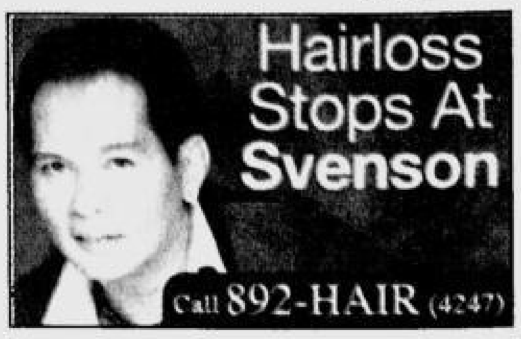
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Gov't sees ₱1.9B from sale of Global City lot

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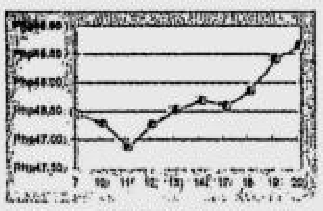


SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱45.33 = $1

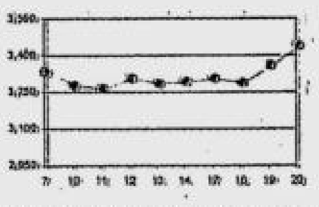
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 20, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares up 2.4% to 6-week high

SHARES JUMPED for the second straight session Thursday, inspired by the US Federal Reserve's generous rate cut and expectation that Philippine monetary authorities will follow suit. The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 79.4 points, or 2.4 percent, at 3,442.38, adding

SHARES/ B2



(See stock market report on Page B4)

8 firms vie for 1.2-hectare prime property

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUthority expects to earn P1.9 billion from the sale of a 1.2-hectare prime lot in Bonifacio Global City.

Already, eight top real estate developers have expressed their interest in joining the second bidding for the property.

Aileen Zosa of BCDA yesterday said the property set for sale or joint venture was part of the third phase of the agency's Asset Disposition Program.

Known as the Expanded Big Delta Lots, formerly the Government Center for Investments, the property calls for a minimum bid price of P160,000 per square meter, or P10,000 more than what was asked the first time.

Zosa said prospective bidders were the Net Group—a consortium of the Rufino group and US real estate giant Trump Organization—Ayala Land Inc., Ascendas, Century Properties, Filinvest Land, IPM Realty Corp., Landco Pacific, and Robinsons Land.

The first bidding, held in the third quarter of 2006, failed because the transfer of the land title was not allowed as it was still under a mortgage.

BCDA has mortgaged the property with Banco de Oro, to secure a standby facility amid anticipation of a shortfall of funds for its Subic-Clark-Tarlac

GOV'T SEES/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

RP posts current account surplus of $3.7B /B2

Enough food for Christmas, DA assures public /B8

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RP posts current account surplus of $3.7B

Trade-in-goods deficit reduced by 11.4% to $3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES YIELDED A CURRENT ACcount surplus of $3.7 billion in the first semester, up 42 percent from last year's figure, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

Monetary authorities attributed this development to robust inflows from overseas workers and lower trade deficit.

The hefty expansion in surplus reflected the sharp rise in net current transfers due to strong remittances from overseas Filipinos, which rose by 13.4 percent to $6.6 billion during the same period last year.

Also, the trade-in-goods deficit narrowed by 11.4 percent to $3 billion from last year's deficit of $3.4 billion as export growth outpaced the increase in import expenditures.

"The key export drivers were manufactures—mainly electronics, machinery and transport, chemicals, wood, processed food and beverages—and iron and steel, minerals, petroleum products, fruits and vegetables and other agro-based products," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

During the period, export earnings went up 7.3 percent while import bill rose by only 4.9 percent.

The first-semester current account resulted in a balance of payments surplus of $3.2 billion during the period, up 56.8 percent from the $2-billion surplus a year ago.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

The current account, a major component of the balance of payments, includes trade-in-goods and income accounts.

For the full year, the BSP expects the current account to go up to as much as $6.4 billion.

The regulator also sees a BOP surplus of $6.3 billion by year's end.

Shares up . . .

From page B1

to 4.6 percent the gains in the past two days.

It was the index's highest level since July 31. Gainers swamped losers 77 to 29, with 53 stocks ending unchanged.

"A possible cut in local interest rates here will encourage people to borrow and invest more for expansion, thereby helping economic growth to accelerate," said Banco de Oro market strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. closed at P2,830—higher by 2.5 percent from its previous close. Ayala Corp. surged 2.5 percent to P2,830. *AP*

Organic versus chemical fertilizers

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THE CHOICE OF ORGANIC FERtilizers, over inorganic varieties, may be viewed in the context of a story about Mang Jose. He was seen by Mang Pedro hurriedly cutting wood with a dull saw to meet a one-month production volume target.

Mang Pedro asked, "why don't you stop cutting wood and sharpen your saw first?"

Mang Jose replied, "I don't have time to do that. Can't you see I'm rushing?"

Long vs short term

In that story, Mang Jose's decision to continue using the dull saw might be correct in the short term, but foolish in the long run. The decision to overuse chemical fertilizers is similar to Mang Jose's decision.

With increased demand for food caused by our rapidly burgeoning population, we have begun to rely heavily on chemical fertilizers to rapidly increase production. In the short run, this has been effective.

But as we use more chemical fertilizers, our land becomes less fertile. This has led us to use even more such fertilizers, thus resulting in a dangerous downward spiral. This kind of agriculture is simply not sustainable.

Based on the data compiled by Florence Mojica-Sevilla of the University of Asia and the Pacific, imported chemical fertilizers in 2005 have more than doubled from the 2001 levels, while domestic product sales have been cut in half *(see table on the right)*. For organic fertilizers, volume has tripled. But sadly, it is still less than 1 percent of chemical fertilizers.

Chemical fertilizer prices have also become a heavy burden for farmers to bear. The price of urea has more than doubled, while that of 14-14-14 has increased by more than 85 percent. The data appeared in Mojica-Sevilla's, "the Philippine Fertilizer Industry."

CHEMICAL AND ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

	VOLUME (thousand tons)			PRICE (Peso / 50kg bag)	
YEAR	**IMPORTS**	**DOMESTIC**	**ORGANIC**	**UREA**	**NPK 14-14-14**
2001	1,030	1,945	6.8	P440	P427
2002	910	1,805	1.9	P424	436
2003	1,640	1,540	3.5	P550	477
2004	1,872	1,671	16.2	P741	660
2005	2,140	978	20.6	P950	798

A strong case can be made for the desirability and urgency of using organic fertilizers. Given the impact of global warming, climate change and increased environmental degradation, we must now prioritize the restoration of ecological balance. The use of chemical fertilizer not only damages our soil fertility, which we need to produce our food, it also threatens our health and well-being. Many chemical fertilizers today cannot just be washed off with water. They penetrate and become part of the food we eat. However, moving immediately and completely to organic fertilizers is often not realistic.

One of the agencies I supervised at the Department of Agriculture (DA) was the Bureau of Soils and Water Management. Its research, which I witnessed first-hand, showed that when one moves to purely organic fertilizers in one season, production generally drops.

The recommended approach is to use a balanced fertilization strategy, using an optimal combination of organic and chemical fertilizers for a given site. The organic fertilizer component restores the important macro and micro nutrients needed to recover soil fertility, while the chemical fertilizer help sustain production volume. In the long run, production volume increases with the rise in use of organic fertilizers.

Success story

Roberto Salido (0917-5342378), president of Sagana Inc. and former president of the Organic Fertilizer Manufacturers Association, has made a breakthrough. This is consistent with the many awards Salido has received, such as the Panday-Pira Award from the Office of the President, Most Outstanding Inventor Award from the Department of Science and Technology, and the Golden Medal Award from the World Intellectual Property Organization. He has also published an acclaimed article, "The Growing Tragedy of the Sick Soil."

Salido has formulated a balanced fertilization package which uses a chemical component of only 5 percent, which produces an immediate increase in yield. Examples of these achievements are seen in many parts of the country today covering crops such as rice, corn and sugar.

But he, and other organic fertilizer manufacturers like him, are receiving inadequate attention and support.

During the last six years, the DA granted a loan to 10 organic fertilizer manufacturers of P1 million each. We applaud the DA for this, but hope that, with Secretary Arthur Yap at the helm, this kind of support will increase significantly. According to Salido, this can be done in various ways, such as systematic technology transfer, increased training, and a greater loan allocation for organic fertilizers.

It is hoped that the DA will change the current trend of chemical fertilizer overuse. The DA should instead intensify its innovative organic agriculture program, and provide more support for organic fertilizers. This will result in increasing farmer incomes, ensuring food security, safeguarding our people's health, and restoring our nation's ecological balance.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, former member in charge of Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112).

Gov't sees P1.9B . . .

From page B1

Expressway project.

Zosa said in an interview last August that BCDA had secured a P1-billion loan from BDO, which would partially cover a P6-billion project for SCTEx.

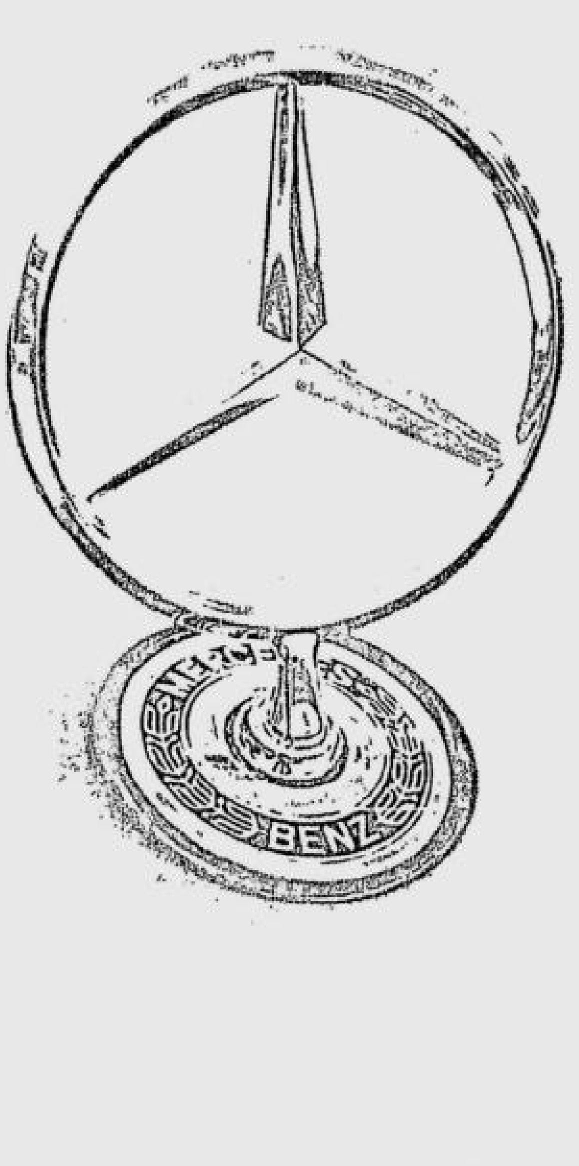
For the second bidding, set on Nov. 5, BCDA now requires bidders to include in their proposals a way through which the mortgage's limitation of title transfer may be resolved.

Zosa said the 12,036-sq.m. property was classified as mixed-use, meaning the area could be developed into residential, office and commercial and retail complex.

She added that the developer could put up on the lot a building with a gross floor area of about 144,000 sq.m.

The lot is on 5th avenue, across the Fort and in the gateway of city center that is also an economic zone. It is touted to be the "primest portion" of Bonifacio Global City.

"Developers can avail of Peza (Philippine Economic Zone Authority) incentives if their project is qualified and registered under Peza rules and law," Zosa said.



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Philip Morris chooses Subic as site for $20-M tobacco hub

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIP MORRIS PHILIPPINES MANUFACturing Inc. has chosen to set up its $20-million tobacco warehouse complex in Subic instead of going to Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

"This decision shows PMPMI's confidence in Subic when it comes to efficiency and cost effectiveness, as well as the attractiveness of the country's investment environment in general," said SBMA administrator Armand C. Arreza in a joint statement with PMPMI managing director Chris Nelson.

Nelson said PMPI would put in an initial $600,000 to repair a US Navy-era warehouse and widen Switzerland-based Philip Morris International's transshipment operations in Asia-Pacific.

The refurbished warehouse is expected to be ready for use by the first week of November, as PMPMI has scheduled the first transshipment for Nov. 9.

Nelson said the company chose Subic for its regional hub because of its cost advantages and its proximity to PMPMI's Batangas factory.

The existing warehouse can hold six million tons of tobacco leaf while a new facility to be put up in 2009 can store 25 million tons of tobacco leaves.

Nelson said PMPMI now exports cigarettes to Thailand, French Polynesia, Micronesia and Hong Kong; processed tobacco to South Korea, Cambodia and Pakistan; and expanded tobacco products to Malaysia, Bangladesh and India.

"(Our thrust is to) increase the PMPMI's logistics efficiency and help bring locally produced tobacco products to markets around the world," he said.

Nelson explained that by buying flue-cured tobacco leaf from the Ilocos region, traditional Burley tobacco from Pangasinan and Burley tobacco from Isabela—which PMPMI helped develop—the firm directly benefits some 37,000 tobacco growers.

He said putting up the Subic regional leaf warehouse would further increase PMPMI's purchases of the Isabela Burley variety, which is the only Philippine-grown tobacco to pass international standards.

Nelson said the firm had gradually increased its local purchases from less than 500 tons in 2001, to almost 1,500 tons in 2003, and close to 2,000 tons in 2005.

PMPI expects its purchases of local tobacco leaves to exceed 3,000 tons this year.

Also, he said the Subic facility would serve as a regional storage center mainly for Asian tobacco leaf that would be used by the PMPMI factory in Batangas, or exported to other PMI production facilities abroad.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week September 18, 2007	Last Week September 11, 2007
Bond Fund - Peso	1.62274	1.60467
Managed Fund - Peso	1.86718	1.85266
Growth Fund - Peso	1.76350	1.76252
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3949	1.3778

* Note. These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure

UNIT PRICES (In Php)	Sept. 17, 2007	Sept. 10, 2007
Fixed Income Fund	1.288164	1.280342
Balanced Fund	1.423441	1.416944
Equity Fund	1.658722	1.653908

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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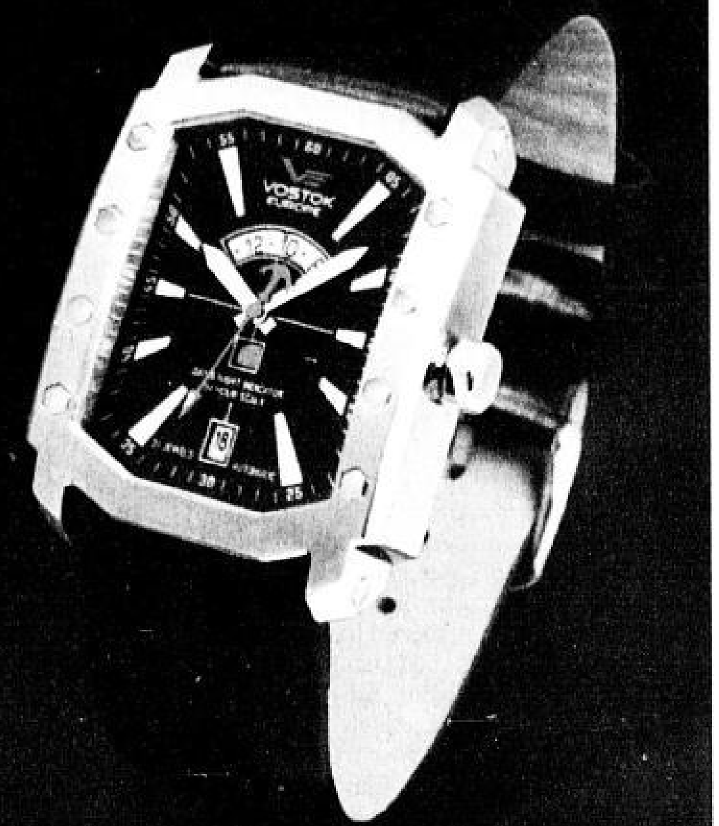

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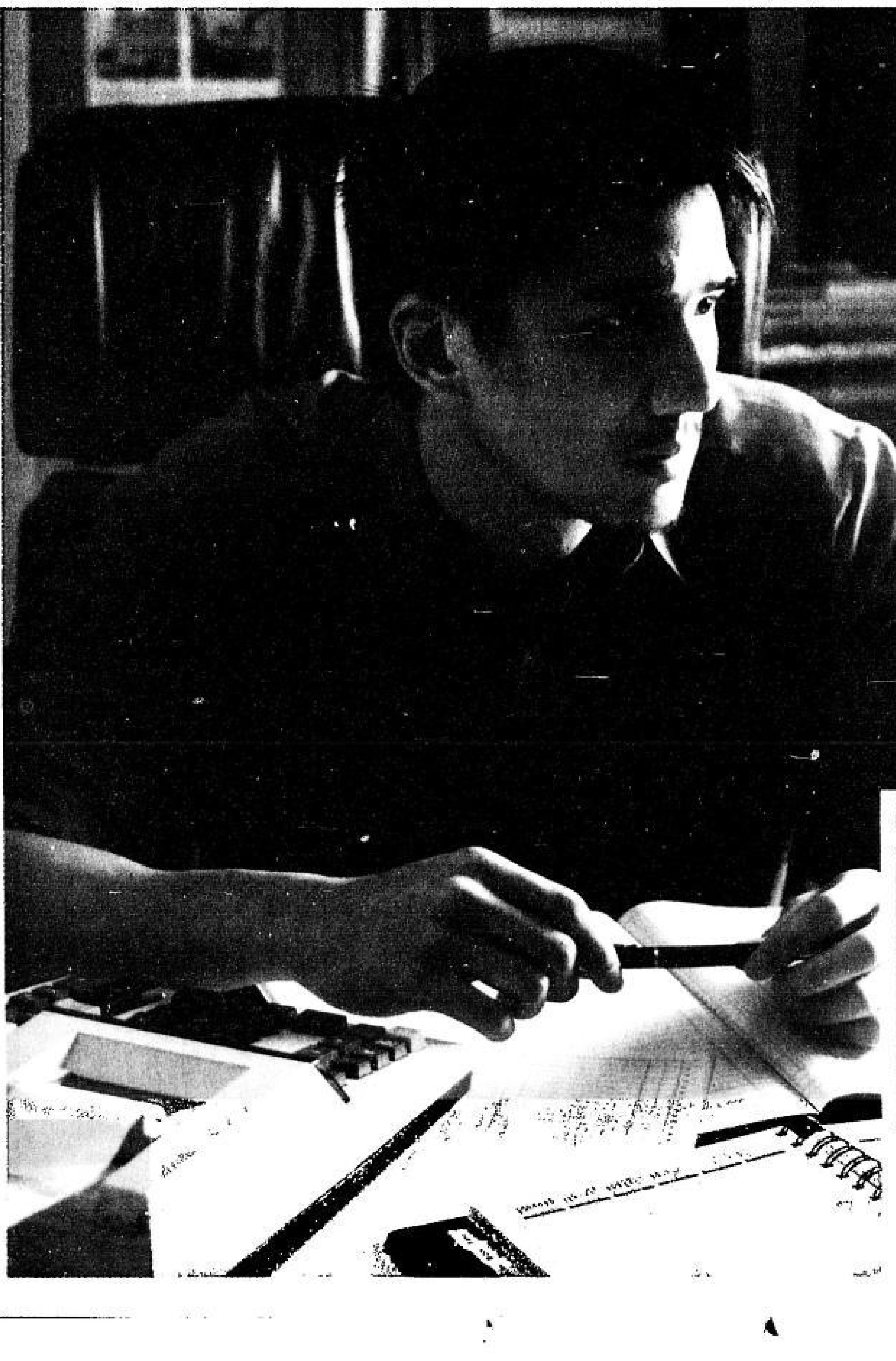
Trying to do Modern Business with yesterday's tools?
SNAP out of it.

It's time to look at integrated networking for business in a new way. But it seems that business solutions bandy about the same confusing terms like "ICT integrated networks", "integrated network services", that can mean the same or different things, depending on the context these words are used. People who want to learn more are swamped by a wave of simple and yet confusing words.

PLDT SNAP! simply put, is the best choice you have to enable the IT solution that you need in your company at affordable monthly payments. You could think of it as an entire IT division of routers, server solutions, desktops, and laptops complete with helpdesk support, and of course the right broadband connectivity that comes straight out of a box to plug into your running operations. Integrated networking, in a "SNAP-sense" if you will, delivers all the basic functionality of a company's IT set-up virtually fuss-free.

If your business is enjoying steady growth, increasing orders and an expanding customer base, you're also probably finding it harder to keep track of it all. The exponential increase in workflow monitoring, reports and associated files and paperwork is the inevitable outcome of your success. Ironically, success can begin to hurt.

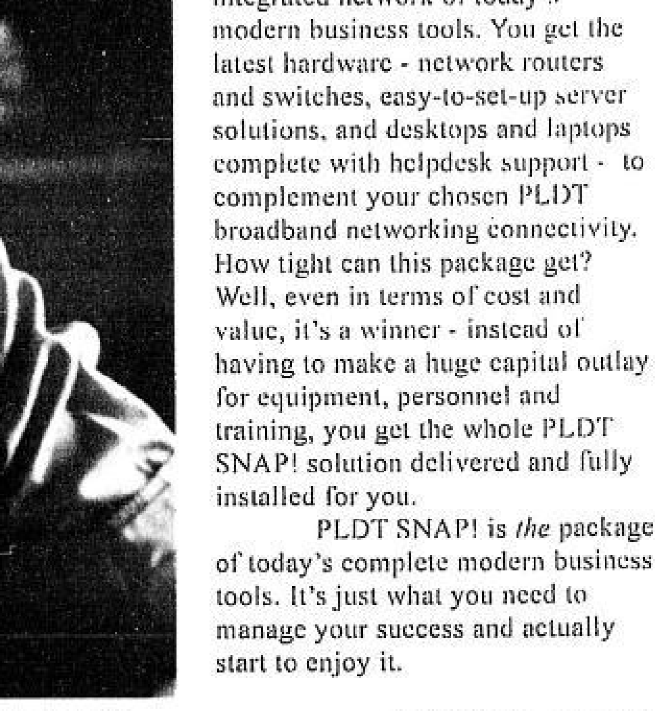
Trying to use old tools like phones, faxes, and unconnected computers is a haphazard way to manage success, which is all about momentum. When you stall on success, it turns ugly real fast with opportunities lost today and worse of all for the future. Customers and prospects come to view your company as inept, unable to service them up to the standards they expect.



Once the territory of larger more established companies, networking comes in a SNAP for every size of business up and down the line. It's not the exclusive province of big business anymore; nowadays, squeezing every bit of efficiency out of your operations is an irresistible imperative.

PLDT SNAP! is a new integrated network of today's modern business tools. You get the latest hardware - network routers and switches, easy-to-set-up server solutions, and desktops and laptops complete with helpdesk support - to complement your chosen PLDT broadband networking connectivity. How tight can this package get? Well, even in terms of cost and value, it's a winner - instead of having to make a huge capital outlay for equipment, personnel and training, you get the whole PLDT SNAP! solution delivered and fully installed for you.

PLDT SNAP! is *the* package of today's complete modern business tools. It's just what you need to manage your success and actually start to enjoy it.



SNAP! All Connected!

Networking multiplies the efficiencies of your people and assets by combining them into an effective whole. The noticeable improvements are almost immediate.

PSE starts implementing reporting code for miners

Disclosure of reserves, resources, mining activities

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange (PSE) yesterday said its board had approved the early implementation of the Philippine Mineral Reporting Code (PMRC), the rules that would govern the reporting of activities of mining companies.

PMRC sets minimum standards, recommendations and guidelines for public reporting of mining firms' exploration results, mineral resources and ore reserves in the Philippines.

In a memorandum to brokers, the PSE said had required mining firms to comply with the code immediately, or beginning yesterday. The code's implementation was previously set for January 2008.

PMRC provides for stricter disclosure rules for mining firms to boost listings and investments in the sector, and prevent stock speculation.

PMRC was based on international reporting codes of Australia, South Africa, European Union and Canada.

PSE president Francis Lim earlier said a number of mining firms with Philippine projects were listed overseas.

"We don't know why these mining firms had been listing abroad. They probably think investors prefer markets with reporting methods and procedures that are harmonized," he said.

Sources in the mining sector said companies preferred to list overseas because these markets were bigger and they present more opportunities.

So far, 14 mining firms are listed on the local exchange. Last year, the mining and oil index was up by 63.3 percent and by 43.6 percent in the first seven months of the year..

Market capitalization of listed firms—the value of stocks based on their current market prices—grew 58 percent to P42.7 billion in 2006 and by 74.5 percent to P74.6 billion in the first seven months of 2007.

Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez earlier said the code would help protect investor interest.

"We don't want companies to take advantage of the less informed. We have to make our guidelines at par with international standards," Romualdez had said.

US Fed rate cut boosts peso bonds trading

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SHARP CUT IN THE US FEDERAL REserve's key interest rate boosted the trading of peso-denominated bonds at the country's fixed income exchange.

The volume of Philippine government securities traded at the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx) platform reached a record of P26.03 billion on Wednesday as the 50-basis point cut in the US Fed's rate triggered euphoria across global markets.

The volume surpassed the previous high of P16.468 billion recorded last July 13, the fixed-income exchange said in a statement.

Trading activity at the PDEx fixed income platform covered a wide range of benchmark tenors. The most actively traded security was the fixed-rate treasury note (FXTN) tenor which will mature in February 2010. Other actively traded notes were FXTNs with remaining tenor of more than nine years as well as the FXTNs that are falling due in 2013.

"This is a very much welcomed development because it suggests that investors are looking at our capital market and are apparently comfortable with both either short- and long-term securities," PDEx president Cesar Crisol said.

Name association

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

A TOUGH JOB LIES AHEAD FOR the lawyers of former President Joseph Estrada. Overturning the conviction of their client is not going to be a walk in the park.

A contrary result would put the mark of Cain on Estrada. Unless the decision is reversed by the Sandiganbayan or the Supreme Court, his name would forever be associated with the crime of plunder under our laws.

Just like the way the name Ponzi has become synonymous to investment scams. Remember the Performance Investment Products scandal which hit the headlines last month?

In a Ponzi scheme, unusually high returns are offered to investors to entice them to invest their money in some business venture. The promised profits are drawn from the investments of new investors. The arrangement eventually collapses when the field of suckers dries up.

The scheme is named after Charles Ponzi, an Italian-American, who in 1920 gypped the present day equivalent of $150 million from Americans who were attracted by his offer to double their money in 90 days.

After more than eight decades, the stigma on the Ponzi name remains and his namesakes continue to suffer from the consequences of that linkage.

And so do thousands of victims of local Ponzi scams whose chances of recovering their money get dimmer as the cases against the people behind the swindling activities drag on.

Management

In the business world, some name associations have interesting meanings and origins.

Mention the name Murphy to a business executive and the first thing that usually comes to mind is "Murphy's law." In essence, it means "whatever can go wrong, will go wrong." The pessimist would recite it as "whatever can go wrong will go wrong, and at the worst possible time, in the worst possible way."

It's the excuse usually given when something unexpected or unpleasant happens in the regular course of business.

There are conflicting accounts on who or how that so-called law came about. The generally accepted version is, its author is a certain Edward Murphy, a US Air Force technician, who uttered those words in 1948 to express his disappointment over a failed rocket test.

A journalist who was critical of US military experiment procedures wrote about the booboo, some columnists played it up and, before long, the statement became a buzz word.

While some business persons invoke Murphy's law to cover up for their shortcomings, others use it as a slogan of sorts to motivate their staff into giving their best in important projects to avoid anything from going wrong.

If you look closely at the spirit of Murphy's law, it's similar to the *bahala na* attitude of many Filipinos: Things are bound to happen because they are meant to happen that way.

Principle

Another name association that is popular in the business circles is the Pareto Principle, also known as the 80:20 Rule.

The principle is attributed to Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto who, during the 1800s, stated that 80 percent of the land in Italy was owned by 20 percent of the population.

He also observed that 20 percent of the pea pods in his garden produced 80 percent of the peas that he harvested.

Pareto's views on the 80:20 arrangement of things have been amplified to apply to business. The applications include the following:

- 80 percent of the profits are produced by 20 percent of the staff;
- 80 percent of decisions come from 20 percent of the meeting time;
- 80 percent of a manager's interruptions come from the same 20 percent of people.

For the people who sell or buy shares of stocks, Dow Jones is the name association they're most familiar with.

Dow Jones & Co. is the pioneer in stock market indexes and averages. The Dow, as it is fondly called by stock traders, reports the value changes of stocks traded in major US stock exchanges.

To facilitate the review of its report, the Dow's listings are prepared according to industry or business groupings.

The information provided by the Dow has a strong influence on the pricing of the stocks traded in the local stock market.

Economy

For professors of economics, the name Keynes carries a special meaning.

In 1935, British economist John Maynard Keynes questioned the merit of the classical view that the economy worked best when it is left alone.

The laissez faire doctrine rests on the premise that the maximum good for the people will be accomplished if businesses were allowed to operate with minimum interference from government.

In other words, market forces should determine, for example, the wages that should be paid to the employees and the price of goods and services.

Keynes thought otherwise. He believed government should actively intervene in the market to ensure growth and development. His theory, later dubbed as Keynesian economics, calls for government adjusting its levels of expenses and taxes in order to achieve full employment and stable prices.

We'll wrap up this discussion on name association in business with this joke.

Question: How do you know you have a good tax accountant?

Answer: A tax loophole is named after him.

(For feedback, please write to <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

Geograce inks swap deals with 2 firms

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FIRM GEOGRACE REsources Phils. Inc. signed on Monday share swap agreements with two firms for their mining rights in Zambales, Palawan and Bukidnon, covering a total area of more than 30,000 hectares.

These two companies are Garnierite Mining Inc. and Saprolite Mining Inc., Geograce said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Under the deal, Geograce said it would issue 173,736,363 common shares at par value of P1 per share to the stockholders of Garnierite and Saprolite, in exchange for 100 percent of the issued and outstanding capital of both firms and their rights to the three mining areas.

Saprolite has two mining tenements located in Cabangan, San Felipe and San Narciso in Zambales, covering a total of 5,503 hectares.

These areas were valued at P33.8 million, based on the mine valuation report of Minercon International Inc.

Garnierite has mining tenements in Botolan and Cabangan in Zambales, as well as in Aborlan, Palawan and Malaybalay, Bukidnon, covering a total of 26,487 hectares. These areas were valued at about P140 million.

The issuance and listing of the additional Geograce common shares are subject to the approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PSE.

Geograce, through its subsidiaries, engages in the mining and exploration of mineral resources in the country.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 20, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9	9	9	9	[illegible]
73	38	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	59	60	59	60	756,400
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	66	68	66	67.5	5,372,400
935	630	China Banking Corp.	810	835	810	830	23,110
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	5,590,000
75.5	39.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	52.5	53	52	53	10,110,000
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	48	48.5	48	48	926,600
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	15	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	22.75	23	22.25	22.25	4,773,700
90	49.5	Security Bank Corp	69	69	68.5	68.5	790,400
66	42.51	Union Bank of the Philippines	56	56	55.5	55.5	600
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc	2	2.02	1.98	2.02	1,871,000
16.25	3.15	CitisecOnline.com Inc	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	369,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,805.00	1,560.00	Manulife Financial Corp	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,210
5	2.05	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.5	3.65	3.5	3.56	5,679,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc	1.92	1.96	1.9	1.96	42,000
2,335.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,330.00	2,330.00	100
1.31	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.44	[illegible]	1.11	[illegible]	[illegible]
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
[illegible]	3.8	[illegible]	5	5.1	5	5.1	[illegible]
0.57	0.24	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.26	0.29	0.28	0.29	700,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	64	64.5	64	64.5	973,900
92	48	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	73	74	73	73.5	2,435,200
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	13.75	14.25	13.75	14.25	3,365,000
105.45	17.05	Manila Electric Co.	80	85	80	85	2,919,300
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	15,132,000
6.5	3.9	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.6	11,707,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc	7	7	6.8	6.9	53,000
[illegible]	0.95	[illegible]	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.2	[illegible]
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2.95	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.78	1.82	1.76	1.78	448,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	23.5	23.5	7,000
61	34	Jollibee Foods Corp	52	54	52	53	2,087,300
10.25	10	Phil. Tob. Flue Curing and Redry Corp.	10	10	10	10	1,000
0.98	0.42	RFM Corp	0.95	0.95	0.88	0.88	1,250,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	170,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	13,400
88	59.5	San Miguel Corp. "B"	61	61.5	61	61.5	192,400
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	1,000,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.18	0.39	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.75	EEI Corp.	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.3	6,465,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	2,000
9.2	4.9	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	140,000
7	1.32	Republic Cement Corp	4	4	4	4	58,000
[illegible]	0.78	[illegible]	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.12	[illegible]
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.96	A. Soriano Corp	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	46,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc	0.1	0.1	0.0975	0.0975	10,800,000
1.28	0.22	APC Group Inc.	0.75	0.76	0.73	0.73	15,360,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	76,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
9.7	5	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,916,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	56,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc	5.1	5.2	4.95	5.2	19,802,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.24	2.28	2.24	2.26	672,000
590	375	Ayala Corp.	500	510	500	510	639,170
5.8	1.22	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.7	4.05	3.7	4.05	27,617,000
10.25	3.7	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.2	252,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.95	4	3.9	3.95	74,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	505,000
3.55	1.2	House of Investments Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	10,000
14.5	5.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.8	175,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	190,000
0.8	0.205	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
11.5	1.1	Multitech Investments Corp.	5.6	5.9	5.4	5.5	14,791,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc	7.1	7.1	7	7	36,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.16	280,710,000
0.75	0.175	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.4	1,940,000
452.5	222.5	SM Investments Corp.	362.5	380	362.5	375	379,090
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	12,470,000
1.6	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	100,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.5	18.5	18	18	14,000
[illegible]	0.1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.31	[illegible]	[illegible]
		PROPERTY					
8.3	0.81	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.4	1.4	[illegible]
1.06	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	8.1	8.2	8	8.1	161,000
19.25	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	110,000
1.88	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	15.25	14.75	15	8,113,300
4.7	1	Belle Corp	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	1,965,000
0.86	2.65	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	478,000
0.83	0.31	Crown Equities Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	870,000
0.99	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	710,000
6.9	0.5	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.69	0.68	0.69	13,670,000
0.47	0.05	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.25	45,080,000
1.48	0.51	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.1	853,000
2.44	1.12	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	42,505,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
2.9	0.9	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.66	900,000
4.4	1.73	Megaworld Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.25	162,170,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp	3.85	3.9	3.85	3.85	39,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.39	4,780,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	190,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	55,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.25	17.25	17	17.25	21,290,600
5.9	1.52	SM Development Corp.	3.85	3.9	3.85	3.9	569,000
13.5	6.48	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11	11.5	10.75	11.25	10,751,500
3.25	0.87	Shang Properties Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	89,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.66	4,320,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.26	10,150,000
7.5	3.65	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		MEDIA					
36.5	16.25	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	31.5	31.5	31	31	1,300
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	9.5	9.5	[illegible]	9.5	630,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.24	1.34	1.24	1.3	[illegible]
1,445.00	1,050.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,375.00	1,400.00	1,375.00	1,400.00	155,190
2,855.00	2,150.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co	2,780.00	2,855.00	2,780.00	2,830.00	103,320
[illegible]	4.5	[illegible]	6.9	7	[illegible]	7	[illegible]
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.2	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	12,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.5	1,096,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	27,100,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	63,200
0.32	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.19	17,430,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp	1.26	1.3	1.26	1.3	152,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.049	37,700,000
5.8	1	[illegible] Int'l. Inc	2.65	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	[illegible]	1.52	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6.8	3.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.75	3.95	3.7	3.85	652,000
34.5	16	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	32.5	33.5	32.5	33	1,262,200
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	10,000
[illegible]	1.04	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.18	[illegible]	[illegible]
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
16.5	5	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	6	[illegible]
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	50,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.53	0.56	0.53	0.56	1,100,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.84	[illegible]
		EDUCATION					
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	1.94	Macroasia Corp	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	640,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.75	12	11.75	11.75	172,000
30	10	[illegible]	11	[illegible]	[illegible]	11	[illegible]
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	282,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.4	111,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.5	14.5	14	14.25	1,032,700
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12	12	11	11	12,100
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	100,000
3.1	0.41	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.86	1.86	45,007,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.33	60,450,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	6,290,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	494,400,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.031	90,000,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	12,800,000
7	3.45	Philex Mining Corp.	7	7	6.9	7	12,550,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	32	32	32	32	40,100
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp	1.02	1.04	1	1.02	1,105,000
1.8	0.56	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.2	[illegible]	[illegible]
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	[illegible]
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	405,600,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.025	141,700,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	24,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	429,600,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	898.19 UP	17.50	36,385,520	1,196,715.00
Industrial	4,527.71 UP	94.93	204,528,500	962,523,525.00
Holding Firms	1,927.12 UP	57.97	578,645,260	862,490,380.00
Property	1,498.47 UP	19.79	336,016,400	1,267,167,995.00
Service	1,681.95 UP	37.28	109,256,910	830,089,805.00
Mining & Oil	6,739.12 UP	94.81	1,865,392,900	259,256,825.00
All Shares Index	2,156.39 UP	40.01		
PSEI	3,442.38 UP	79.40		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,130,225,490	5,378,366,245.00

COMPILED BY RHEA BLANCAS, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

September 20, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.716127	1.000000	45.6230
Japan	Yen	0.006169	0.008615	0.3930
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432970	2.001000	91.2916
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.091987	0.128451	5.8603
Switzerland	Franc	0.605144	0.845023	38.5525
Canada	Dollar	0.705614	0.985319	44.9532
Singapore	Dollar	0.474728	0.662910	30.2439
Australia	Dollar	0.612808	0.855725	39.0407
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.899643	2.652661	121.0224
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.191064	0.266802	12.1723
Brunei	Dollar	0.473160	0.660720	30.1440
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000108	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022449	0.031348	1.4302
UAE	Dirham	0.195013	0.272316	12.4239
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.396400	63.7080
Korea	Won	0.000773	0.001079	0.0492
China	Yuan**	0.095312	0.133094	6.0721
Denmark	Kroner	0.134239	0.187452	8.5521
India	Rupee	0.017921	0.025025	1.1417
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207393	0.289603	13.2126
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525367	0.733622	33.4700
Sweden	Kroner	0.108501	0.151511	6.9124
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021642	0.030221	1.3788

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time Sept. 19, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen

** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 19, 2007

Gov't investments-to-GDP ratio seen rising

From 2.5% this year, rate seen to hit 4.5% in 2010

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC managers said the ratio of government investment-to-gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to improve to 2.5 percent this year from 2.3 percent last year.

This indicator--the percentage share of public investments in the total economic output-- shows how much the government contributes to the growth of the economy.

Government investments include spending for infrastructure, capital equipment and inventory.

Despite the projected increase, the country's government investment-to-GDP ratio would still be way off the 4-5 percent range in neighboring Asean countries.

The expected improvement was based on government efforts to increase spending for infrastructure.

"We still have a lot of things to do to reach the region's average ratio, but at least we are showing signs of improvement," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters in a recent briefing.

The Arroyo administration earlier said it wanted to raise government expenditure to pump-prime the economy and improve the delivery of social services to the public.

The Department of Finance said the government spent P757 billion in January to August to support operations and infrastructure-development programs.

The amount was 12-percent higher than year-ago level.

For 2008, the government wants its investments-to-GDP ratio to further improve to 2.9 percent. Beltran said that based on macroeconomic targets, the ratio is seen to reach 4.5 to 5 percent by 2010.

Gov't gets offers for 60% stake in PNOC-EDC

THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED offers from foreign and local investors to buy the controlling stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp., the geothermal subsidiary of Philippine National Oil Co.

PNOC last week started the bidding process for its 60-percent stake in PNOC-EDC.

In its bid invitation, the state firm said the shares to be sold were composed of 6 billion common and 7.5 billion preferred shares.

Interested parties are given until noon of Sept. 24 to submit their letters of interest (LOIs).

Upon the submission of the LOIs, the PNOC privatization committee would furnish potential bidders with the initial pre-qualification guidelines, as well as the forms for the confidentiality agreement.

A pre-bid conference will be held on Sept. 24, with the deadline for the submission of the initial pre-qualification requirements, including the confidentiality agreement and undertaking, set for Oct. 5.

The PNOC privatization committee will release the list of prequalified bidders on Oct. 10.

Pre-qualified bidders would be required to pay a nonrefundable fee of $5,000 on Oct. 11-12 so they could obtain the draft transaction documents, information package and the due diligence procedures.

Pre-qualified bidders can start their due diligence audit of the firm by Oct. 15. They would then be required to submit final qualification documents on Oct. 26. Those who will pass the final screening are given until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to turn in their bids.

The privatization of the government's remaining stake in PNOC-EDC is expected to be completed by end-November 2007.

PNOC president & CEO Antonio Cailao said: "Even prior to the launch of our sale process, we had received multiple indications of interest from top local and foreign groups, especially after announcements were made by the government of its intention to sell its remaining interest in PNOC-EDC by the end of the year."

However, in compliance with statutory restrictions on land ownership and on the development and utilization of natural resources, only Philippine entities can qualify to bid, he said.

PNOC said pre-qualified foreign firms were required to form consortia with Philippine nationals to enable them to pursue their bids. *Doris C. Dumlao and Abigail L. Ho*

Insurance firms find hope in new CTPL system

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID A new system regulating the compulsory third-party liability (CTPL) business is being worked out to harmonize opposing suggestions from parties concerned.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said he met with newly reappointed Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis last Monday to discuss the CTPL issue.

Teves said he and Malinis had agreed to come up with a CTPL regulatory system where nonlife insurance companies would not be at the losing end, while addressing the problem of the rampant sale of fake CTPL policies.

Under the proposed new system, a standard CTPL insurance shall automatically cover all vehicles being registered with the Land Transportation Office, with payment of vehicle registration and insurance fees.

The common insurer will be the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association Inc. (Pira), composed of licensed nonlife insurance firms in the country. The insurance premium to be collected from vehicle owners will be equally distributed among Pira members, Teves said.

Specific details of the plan are still being worked out, the DOF said. But officials from the Insurance Commission, an attached agency of the DOF, are set to hold consultations with industry members on the new system.

Pira has strongly opposed the proposal where the Government Service Insurance System would become the sole provider of CTPL policies.

During their meeting, Malinis reportedly told Teves that he was in favor of the GSIS model.

According to the government pension fund, its proposal would eliminate fraudulent CTPL transactions.

But Pira members said the GSIS model was unconstitutional since it called for a monopoly. The group said thousands of nonlife insurance brokers would lose their jobs should the GSIS model be adopted.

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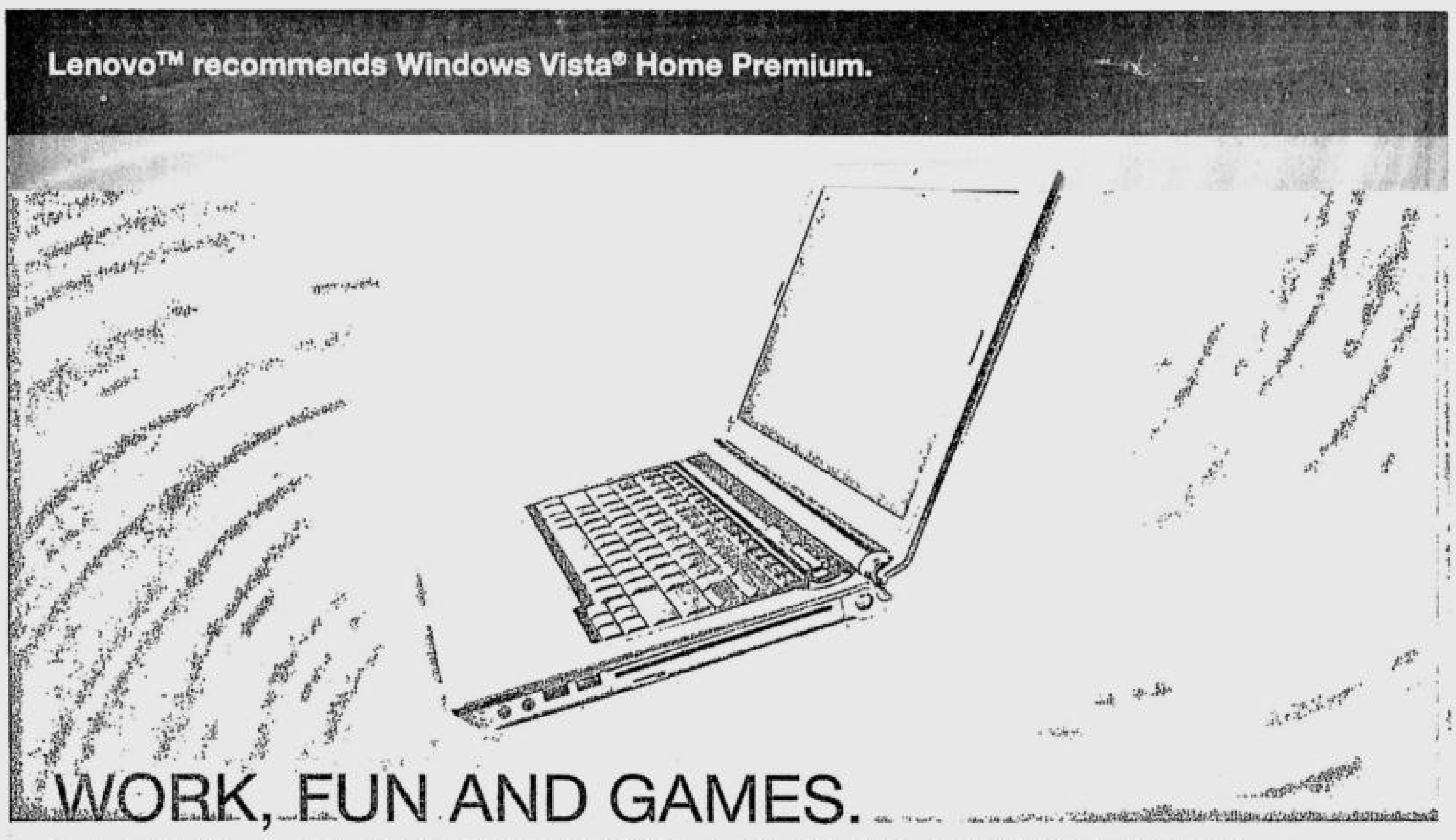

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- [illegible]20GB SATA HDD (5400 rpm)
- Dual Layer Multiburner Drive (DVDRW)
- Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator X3100
- [illegible]-cell Li-ion Battery
- 35.81 cm (14.1") Widescreen WXGA with VibrantView
- [illegible]-year Regional Carry-in Warranty

Php65,995 (775732A)

LENOVO Y400 NOTEBOOK
- Intel® Centrino® Duo processor technology [illegible] Core™2 Duo Processor T5500 ([illegible] 66GHz, 667MHz FSB, 2MB L2 Cache)
- Genuine Windows Vista® Home Premium
- 1GB DDR2 SDRAM
- [illegible]0GB SATA HDD (7200 rpm)
- Dual Layer Multiburner Drive (DVDRW)
- nVidia® GeForce® GO 7300 (Discrete) Graphic Card with up to 256MB TurboCache™
- 6-cell Li-ion Battery
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- [illegible] year Carry-in Warranty

Php55,995 (345443A)

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- Genuine Windows Vista [illegible]
- [illegible]12MB DDR2 SDRAM
- 80GB SATA HDD
- Dual Layer Multiburner D[illegible]RW)
- Intel® Graphics Media Accelerator [illegible] up to 128MB)
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Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 2007
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Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 2007

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National Capital Region
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cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

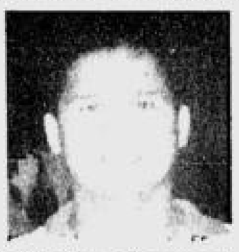
Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Citizenship	Position
FIL-OREAN LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING INC. Suite 19J 19/F, Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Jin Yong Kim Korean	Manager
FIL-OREAN LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING INC. Suite 19J 19/F, Legaspi Towers 300, Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila	Sooho Shin Korean	General Manager
ACCENT/STI BANAWE MANAGEMENT, INC. 7/F Phil. First Building, 6764 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Donald Lee Weidemann American	President
SEOJUNEKOREA INC. Rm 402 Executive Center, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila	Hwa Hyung Jung Korean	Consultant
JUH CORPORATION 17/F World Center Condominium, 330 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Veronica Noviyanty Indonesian	Indonesian Customer Support Service Representative
PAN-ASIA INVESTMENTS GROUP HOLDING CO. INC. Unit 2505 Union Bank Plaza, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Nan Ye Chinese	Marketing Consultant
MITSUI & CO. LTD (MANILA BRANCH) 36/F GT Tower International, 6815 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ryoichi Funaki Japanese	General Manager
POYRY ENERGY, INC. 8/F Kings Court, 2129 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City	Richard Frank Royston Sleath British	Project Scheduler
DOO WON SJ CONSULTANCY CORP. 3 Aurora Arcade, Isidora Hills. Holy Spirit, Quezon City	Seung Dal Hong Korean	Korean Embassy Representative 2
WIN-A-PARTNER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INC. Unit 5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Jie Han Chinese	Director
WIN-A-PARTNER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INC. Unit 5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Yajuan Wang Korean	Chairman of the Board
WIN-A-PARTNER INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INC. Unit 5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila	Huaixiang Yang Chinese	Sales Manager
SURECO PC CORP. 123 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City	Yun Su Bae Korean	Operation Manager
MUSE DE ASIA ENTERTAINMENT INC. 5779 Zobel Roxas St., Palanan, Makati City	Hisayoshi Tanaka Japanese	Operation Manager
MUSE DE ASIA ENTERTAINMENT INC. 5779 Zobel Roxas St., Palanan, Makati City	Takao Yokoyama Japanese	Finance Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

for RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC-Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that **warrants of arrest** of **MR. APOLINAR RECINTO MARASIGAN** of Brgy. Duhatan, Lipa City, Batangas whose picture appears above have been issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Lipa City in Criminal Case Nos. 06-0145 and 06-0362 to 06-0367 for violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 22.

Positive information leading to his arrest shall be rewarded.

Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

LUCKY 4A CORPORATION
Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City, 4217 Batangas
Tel. Nos.: (043)404-1340, (043)404-1342 and (043)404-1343

(PDI--Sept 8 & 21, 200)

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Notice of Loss

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Pancake House, Inc. Stock Certificate No. 370 covering 1,000,000 shares in the name of Lourdes Beatrice L. Benitez.

Should no one contest on or before Sept. 28, 2007, a new stock certificate will be issued to replace the lost certificate.

(PDI--Sept. 14, 21 & 28, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
POLOMOLOK WATER DISTRICT
National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Polomolok Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2007 intends to apply the sum *(See schedule under 2)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Polomolok Water District now invites Bids from **ACCREDITED & ELIGIBLE BIDDERS** for the following:

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	BID SECURITY (1% OF ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	Procurement of Upvc Pipes and Fittings	8,404,901.00	84,049.01	P 3,500.00
2	Procurement of Steel & G.I. Pipes; C.I. Fittings & Gate Valves	1,212,259.20	12,122.59	1,500.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Polomolok Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **September 28 to Oct. 04, 2007, 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount *(stated in item no. 2)*, the method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Polomolok Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 05, 2007, @ 9:00 A.M. at PWD Board Room, Polomolok Water District, National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the bidding scheduled time and date at 9:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash or Manager's check in the amount *(stated in item no. 2)*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at the PWD-Board Room, Polomolok Water District, National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato *on the following schedule*

PACKAGE No.	BIDDING SCHEDULE, TIME & DATE
1	October 17, 2007 @ 9:00 AM
2	October 18, 2007 @ 9:00 AM

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The *Polomolok Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

Polomolok Water District
Bids & Awards Committee
National Highway, Polomolok, South Cotabato
Tel. No. (083) 225-2020 / 382-0813
E-mail add pol_wd@yahoo.com
Fax No. (083) 500-8008

(Sgd.) **CECIL D. MIRASOL, M.E.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 21, 2007)

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this City per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	4	UNITS	DIST. TRANSFORMER, 75KVA, PHILEC, WAGNER OR ITS EQUIVALENT SPECS: - DOUBLE BUSHING, OIL IMMERSED, 1 PHASE - 7,620-13200V WYE / 12--240 VOLTS - BRAND NEW AGENCY PRICE P161,700.00

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of Sept. 22, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on September 27, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 27, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

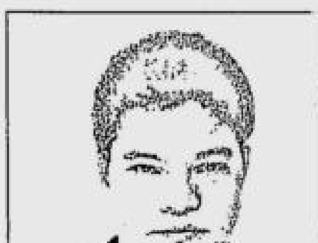
The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) REINERIO R. RAMOS
General Manager

(PDI--Sept. 21 & 22, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 04-D-1788



RAFAEL T. ENGLE, whose photo appears above, has an outstanding warrant of arrest issued against him by the Regional Trial Court of Pasay City in a criminal case where he has been convicted. Anyone who can give information on Mr. Engle's whereabouts that will lead to his arrest will be rewarded and should call **Luisa or Glenda at 834-1988.**

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
JAPAN FUND FOR POVERTY REDUCTION - SOUTHERN LEYTE LANDSLIDE DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROJECT
PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Compound
Maasin City, Southern Leyte

Construction of School Buildings
Grant No. 9102

1. The Local Government Unit of the Province of Southern Leyte has received a Grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) thru Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Southern Leyte Landslide Disaster Assistance Project and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this grant to payments under the contract for the Construction of School Buildings.
2. The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte thru the JFPR-SLLDAP now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the construction of the following school buildings, to wit:

Name of Contract	Location	Approved Budget Cost	Contract Duration
1. Three (3) Units Building: *Two (2) Classroom-Lanao Elementary School,* *Two (2) Classroom-Bactul II Primary School,* *Two (2) Classroom-Malapoc Norte Elementary School*	Maasin City, Southern Leyte	Php 4,008,680 87	60 C.D.
2. One (1) Unit Building - *Three (3) Classroom -* *San Rafael National High School*	Maasin City	Php 1,843,610.94	60 C.D.
3. Two (2) Units Building: *Two (2) Classroom - Tigbawan Integrated School & Two (2) Classroom -* *Timba Elementary School*	Maasin City & Malitbog	Php 2,767,271.17	60 C.D.
4. One (1) Unit Building: *Two (2) Classroom -* *Bahay Elementary School*	Liloan	Php 1,375,560.29	60 C.D.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in *"Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans"*
4. The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
5. Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Documents is on October 4, 2007 not later than 5:00 p.m. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from JFPR-SLLDAP/Provincial BAC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on September 21 to October 4, 2007.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Eligible Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Five Thousand Pesos* (PhP 5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before October 15, 2007
7. The JFPR-SLLDAP/Provincial BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 10:00 a.m. on October 9, 2007 at the following address: JFPR-SLLDAP, Project Implementing Unit Office, PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before October 22, 2007, 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security either in the form of Cash, Cashier's Check or Irrevocable Letter of Credit which is 1.0% of ABC or Unconditional Bank Guarantee equivalent to 1.5% of the ABC. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on October 22, 2007 at the JFPR-SLLDAP, PIU Office PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00 a.m.
9. The JFPR-SLLDAP/ Provincial BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

JFPR-SLLDAP
VIRGINIA LIM CRUZ/Project Director
PSWDO Bldg., Capitol Site, Maasin City, Southern Leyte
Tel. No.: (053) 570-8475
Fax: (053) 381-4546
Email: jfpr.slldap@gmail.com

(Sgd.) **ATTY. TOBIAS M. AGUILAR**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 21, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Mero Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the SECURITY SERVICES Contract for 2008 at SEC Main Office, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the hiring of Security Services is SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND PESOS (6,480,000.00) whereas, the contract duration shall be for the period of one (1) year.

a. Corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
b. Bidder should have a valid and current license issued by PNP; and
c. Must have at least ten (10) years continuous operation

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the eligible bidder starting **September 17 to 26, 2007** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of original PNP License to Operate and a payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). For further details, please contact Norlan M. De las Alas of GSD at Tel. No. 727-3320. Only those bidders who purchased the Bid Documents are allowed to attend Pre-Bid Conference.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **September 25, 2007, 1:00 p.m.** at the Conference Room, Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department (NTD), 10th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of bid envelopes will be on **October 16, 2007, 1:00 p.m.** at the General Services Division (GSD, 4th floor, SEC Building and immediately thereafter, the opening of bids will be held at the Conference Room, Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department (NTD), 10th Floor, SEC Building. Late submission of bid documents will no longer be accepted.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 14 & 21, 2007)

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3rd Flr., Andenson Bldg., II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City
Telefax Nos. (049) 545-0292

September 21, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position	Nationality or Citizenship
1.	**IXTUS TOUR & CONSULTING, INC.** Centennial Road, Gahak, Kawit, Cavite	**Mr. Jinwook Lee**	Consultant	Korean
2.	**PHILIPPINE DONG YUN PLATE MAKING CORPORATION** FTP, Brgy. Punta, Calamba City	**Mr. Dongdong Xiao**	Graphic Artist	Chinese
3.	**NYK-TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTE CORPORATION** Carmeltown, Canlubang, Calamba City	**Mr. Hitoshi Kamei**	Director	Japanese
4.	**CAVITE NAGANO SEIKO, IINC.** FCIE, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite	**Mr. Yasuyuki Kondo**	General Manager	Japanese

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III**
Regional Director

(PDI–September 21, 2007)

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"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die." — John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory

of our

Beloved Mama

FELICITAS VILLARAMA CUNANAN

(OCTOBER 17, 1918 – SEPTEMBER 21, 2006)

on her FIRST Death Anniversary

Her loving children: Eddie and Cherrie, Rony and Connie, Cherry and Jun Villena, Cynch and Estoy Estorninos, Aris and Dena, Abet; grandchildren Gina, Cheche, Michelle, Jayr, Kiko, Bingo, Elmo, Ria, Vincent, Andrew, Princh, Klarise; great-grandchildren AC, Cobbee, Enzo, Ryan, Zelyn request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Masses will be offered for her on September 21, 2007 at the following:

National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, Kanlaon, Q.C.	5:30 AM
Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy, Hillsborough, Alabang	6:00 AM
Our Lady of Atonement, Baguio Cathedral	6:00 AM
St. Joseph Church, Pacdal, Baguio	6:30 AM
Our Lady of Hope Parish, Pag-asa, Q.C.	6:30 AM
St. Jerome Emiliani Parish, Alabang	12:15 PM
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:30 PM

HIS EMINENCE GAUDENCIO B. CARDINAL ROSALES, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

The auxiliary bishops and clergy of the Archdiocese of Manila, bereaved brothers and sisters-in-law: Antonio & Amalia and Sebastian & Rafaela; bereaved sisters: Dra. Juvenala, Bartolomea and Amancia; relatives and friends

deeply mourn the demise of

REV. MSGR. GORGONIO L. ENCARNACION

who passed away on September 19, 2007 at the age of 92.

Monsignor Encarnacion was a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Manila. His last assignment was as Parish Priest of Espiritu Santo Parish, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

His remains now lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to Espiritu Santo Parish, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila in the morning of September 22, 2007 where a Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M. with His Excellency Most Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo, D.D. as the main celebrant, after which, his remains will be transferred again to San Roque Parish in Lemery, Batangas.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, September 23, 2007, 1:00 P.M. at the San Roque Parish, Lemery, Batangas. Interment follows at Santuario de Taal, Taal, Batangas.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DONATA TUASON HERRERA

who passed away on August 17, 2007

wish to thank all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent flowers, donations and messages of sympathy, kept vigil and in countless ways condoled and comforted us during our time of bereavement.

Dr. Martin C. Macapanpan

Passed away on the 15th of September 2007 at the age of 89.

He is survived by his dear wife **Erondina**; their children - **Roxy**, **Tristan**, **Brenda** and **Loy**; and their spouses - **Jun Sison**, **Bebot Valera**, **Val Ambrosio**, and **Bonbon Jimenez**; their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren, and by his brother, **Hernan**.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1 Montserrat, Loyola Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque.

There will be a funeral Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapels on September 23, 2007, Sunday at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque.

In lieu of flowers, his family kindly requests that donations in his name be made to Friends of PGH or other worthwhile charities.

"To everything there is a season,
a time for every purpose under heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

LUZ MOYA BORJA

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 20, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her loving husband **Gregorio**; children **Ronnie & Shirley**, **Maritess & Bogey**, **Cecile & Hector**, and **Ronald**; grandchildren **Leeron**, **Denise**, **Antonio**, **Angelo & Adrian**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Rd., Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 23, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

ROSILA P. MABANAG

January 15, 1933 – September 18, 2007

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 18, 2007 at the age of 74.

Her loving husband **Engr. Ramon R. Mabanag**; children **Ricardo** (†), **Edgar & Minnie**, **Mila Evelyn & David**, **Doris** and **Eckie**; grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. mass.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

BENJAMIN Z. OSIAS II

Joined his Creator on September 20 at the age of 59.

His loved ones, **TITO** and Family, **MALEN** and children, request your prayers for the repose of his soul.

Memorial services will be held at Arlington, Q.C. on Friday, September 21. He will be interred in La Union on Saturday, September 22.

We will miss you BENJ, but the Lord has a better place for you.

CLASSIFIEDS

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Construction of New DBP Marbel Branch Building

The **Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch** through its **2007 Corporate Budget** intends to apply the sum of **Eight Million** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **The Construction of a New DBP Marbel Branch Building**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The **Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch** now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for **The Construction of a New Branch Building.** Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before **October 8, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents **on October 12, 2007,10:00 a.m.** at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City** on or before **October 12, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **10:00 a.m** to **3:00 p.m.** on or before **October 22, 2007.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Three Thousand Five Hundred (P3,500.00) Pesos**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before **October 22, 2007, 3:00 p.m.**

The **Development Bank of the Philippines, Marbel Branch** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **October 23, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** at **DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City.**

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **October 29, 2007, 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of **Cash or Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Surety Bond** and in the amount of **1.0%, 1.0% & 2.5% of ABC, respectively** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **October 29, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at DBP, Marbel Branch, Koronadal City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **2:00 p.m. on October 29, 2007.**

Completion of the Works is within **180 days from the Notice to Proceed.**

The **Development Bank of the Philippines**, Marbel Branch reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DBP, Marbel Branch
NOECHITA ANDAYA
Koronadal City
Tel. # (083) 228-2429/228-3118
Fax # (083) 228-3667

(Sgd.) **ATTY ELVIE EULLARAN-ALBANO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 14 & 21, 2007)

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Department of Science and Technology
FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos.: 837-2934; 837-2071 to 82; Fax No. (832) 837-3164

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The FOOD AND NUTRITION RESEARCH INSTITUTE - DOST invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item.

Item / Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/	Time	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)	End-User
		Pre-Bid Conference	Final Opening of Bids		
1 unit Gas Chromatograph with Flame Ionization Detector	P 2.3 M	Sept. 27, 2007 10:00 AM	Oct. 8, 2007 10:00 AM	P 2,300.00	FSTD

Bid forms may be obtained from the FNRI - Bids and Awards - Secretariat, Property Section, FNRI Bldg., DOST Cpd., Bicutan, Taguig City, Metro Manila from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM during office hours starting September 18, 2007.

Pre- Bid conference will be held on October 8, 2007 at the FNRI Conference Room. Attendance is a MUST for all concerned parties namely, BAC members, Technical Working Group members and accredited suppliers.

For more information, please call Ms. Yolanda G.Perlas / Mr. Hilarion "Jun" Sanchez, Jr. at the tel. no. 837-61-49.

FNRI reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. FNRI assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in participating in the bidding.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA V. NARCISO, Ph.D.**
Chairman, FNRI-Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 20 & 21, 2007)

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BUSINESS

Enough food for Christmas, DA assures public

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE yesterday assured the public of a stable supply of rice, vegetables, chicken and other basic food items this Christmas season, despite the prolonged dry spell.

"We continue to put in place a variety of measures to help ensure enough stocks of rice, chicken, meat, vegetables and other basic foodstuff at affordable prices on family tables between now and the yearend," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

Yap said the National Food Authority had already accounted for the supply of rice for the rest of the year and said it had enough buffer stock.

"We have no problem when it comes to the supply of rice this December," said Yap in a recent briefing. "As we move toward October, November, December, our palay harvests would come in."

Because of the recent dry spell which struck Luzon regions, the harvest for the wet cropping season extended to November and December.

The expected additional harvests of some 300,000 metric tons of rice would come from DA's quick turnaround planting program, which involves a third cropping season in Visayas and Mindanao.

As for the supply of chicken, Yap said poultry growers have assured him during a recent meeting that they "have loaded enough chickens for the Christmas season."

Since the poultry sector is still recovering from the extended dry spell, producers have to import some three million kilos of chicken to ensure sufficient supply of the commodity during the holidays.

Yap also said there would be enough pork for Christmas.

According to DA, the recent hog cholera outbreak in Bulacan had no impact on meat supply since the disease was confined only to a small portion of hog farms and was quickly contained.

As for vegetables, Yap said the supply, especially the upland varieties, would likewise remain stable due to additional production areas developed in the south, such as Laguna and Quezon.

Vegetable harvests from these new areas would offset any unexpected losses in Benguet and other Northern Luzon provinces, as triggered by abrupt weather changes, he added.

Yap also noted that the 28 *bagsakan* centers and barangay food terminals that the DA had opened would play a key role in ensuring the abundant supply, affordability and accessibility of these basic food items to consumers.

BSP to prevent repeat of 'Arrovo' bill mishap

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas is investing as much as P4 billion to modernize its bank note printing system to prevent a repeat of the "Arrovo" bill mishap.

BSP sources said the policy-making Monetary Board had agreed to buy two "superline" printing machines worth about P2 billion each so it would not have to outsource the printing of peso bank notes.

Two Christmases ago, a European printer that supplied 80 million P100 bills misspelled President Macapagal-Arroyo's name as "Arrovo."

As many as 2.092 million pieces were released for circulation before the error was discovered.

It was the first time such a printing error occurred.

The defective bills became a collector's item and sold at a hefty premium in online auctions, going for as much as P900 a piece at one point.

The purchase of the new printing machine for the BSP's Security Plant Complex in Quezon City will produce one billion additional bank notes each year, thus doubling the central bank's capacity.

The sources said the plan would be to eventually phase out vintage printing machines bought back in 1976 and 1981.

The new machines will perform the entire cycle of bank note production from layout to printing and bundling, the sources said.

"If you get the superline, then you'd be able to produce the right amount of bank notes and save on the double cost of outsourcing," one source said.

"Also, you modernize, because you'll be able to produce additional bank notes without employing the same number of people," the source added.

For 2008, the sources said the BSP expected to produce another billion worth of bank notes.

The sources also said that the new machine would reduce the risk of printing errors, like the "Arrovo" bills.

These Arrovo notes in circulation are still considered legal tender.

Bataan still good nuke plant site, says Reyes

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is looking at Bataan, the host province of the mothballed 620-megawatt (MW) Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, as a possible site for a nuclear power facility.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the fact that the BNPP, although never operational, was still standing was proof enough of the safety of the site.

"We're looking at the site of the existing plant for the new facility. Since it has withstood earthquakes, typhoons and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, it's only natural to consider it," he said in an interview on the sidelines of the PowerTrends 2007 exhibition and conference.

The government, however, needs at least seven years to study its plan to again consider nuclear power generation.

He cited the case of Thailand, which started its study on the possibility of setting up a nuclear power facility seven years ago, but decided only a month ago to actually go ahead and put up a plant.

"It takes 15-20 years to put up a nuclear power plant, around seven years of which would be spent on a comprehensive study as well as on building up a human resource pool," he said.

"We were ahead in 1987 (with the BNPP), but the nuclear engineers then, if they haven't practiced in years, would not be able to help us with our plans now. Nuclear technology has already evolved so much over the past years," he added.

The study should include not only the safest and most cost-effective way of putting up and eventually operating a nuclear power plant, but also ways to dispose of nuclear wastes and to convince people that nuclear power generation is good for the country in the long run, he said.

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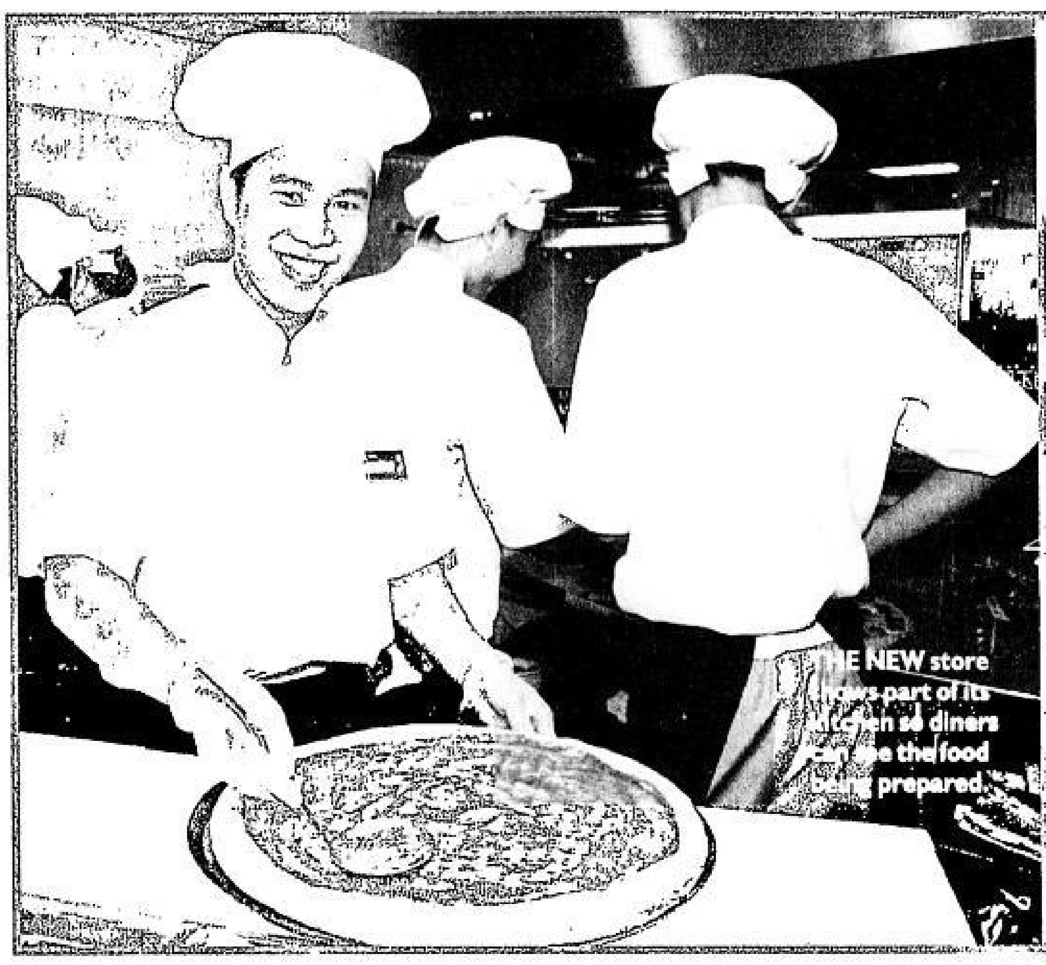

THE NEW store shows part of its kitchen so diners can see the food being prepared.

By Riza T. Olchondra

WITH PIZZA ASSOCIATED with "bonding" and "celebrations" by the premium 20-something market, the idea of "fast casual dining" has emerged.

Greenwich Pizza Corp. said that according to its latest survey, upwardly mobile 20-something with money to burn like having pizza.

Not alone, of course, but with family or friends.

And to lure this market segment, the pizza chain tried a new concept called "fast casual dining." The comfort factor is a notch above fast Jollibee, but faster than your usual bistro.

The flagship store in Ayala Avenue, which opened last Aug. 6, is located right smack in the heart of Makati's Central Business District. It is franchised to young businessmen by the Jollibee fast food group of Tony Tan Caktiong.

> Greenwich adopts 'fast casual dining' concept to lure young, mobile kids to 'bonding food'

Annabelle Narciso, regional business unit head 1, lead MM and Rizal. "Based on research by corporate marketing, pizza is a bonding food. We said we have to have conducive environment for bonding and celebrations. This is the first fast casual dining concept store."

The franchisees are young professionals Cyrus Acla, John Michael Ganipan, and Allan Ngo.

"We belong to the target market, so that's an advantage for us. We know what this market wants," Ganipan said.

To lure the young worker crowd, the concept store had a cozy setting that is very similar to a coffee shop, complete with upholstered booth seats, magazines to read, a wide selection of desserts, and tea and coffee flowing all day.

PIZZA/B2-2

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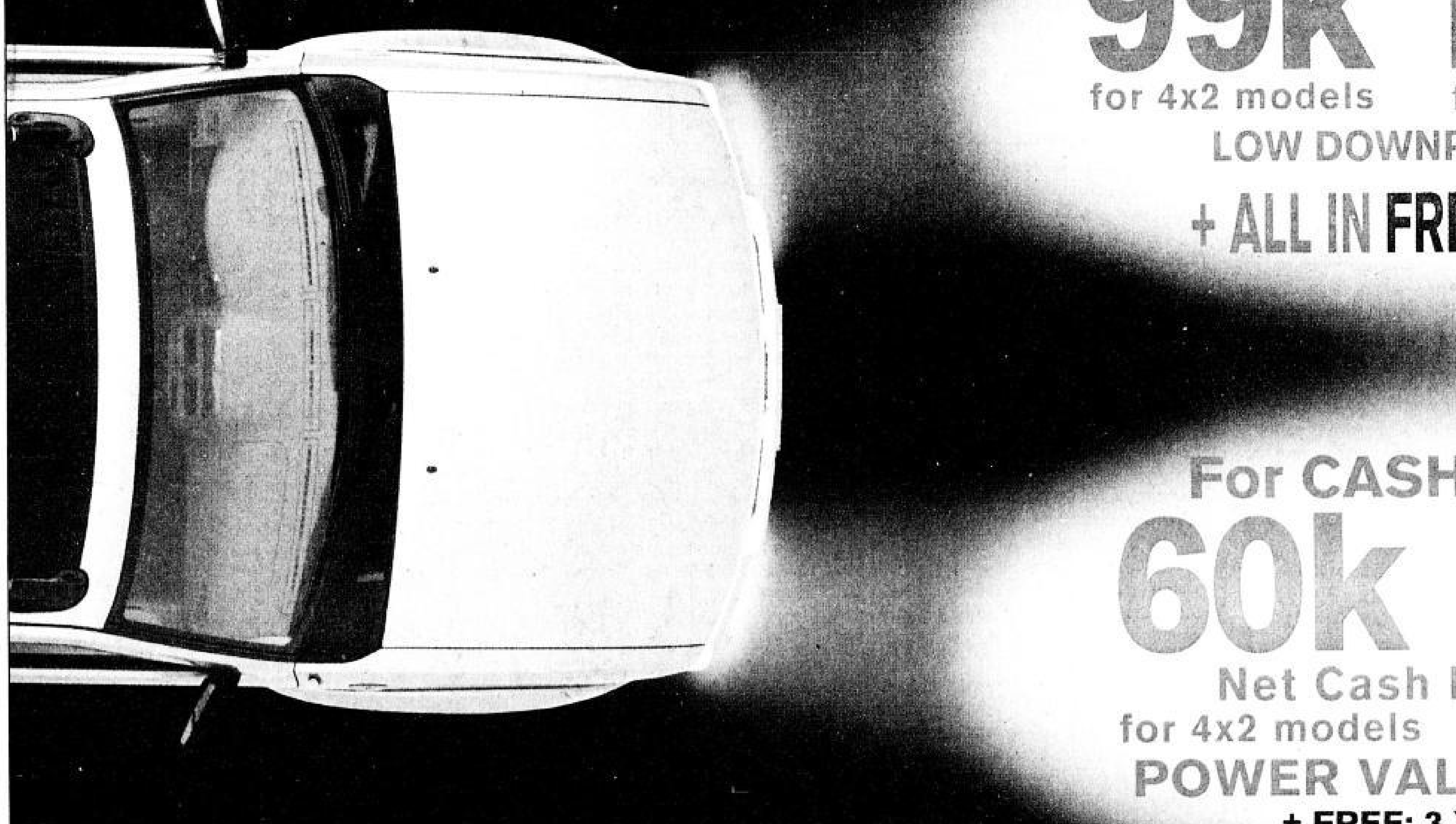

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20th Philippine Advertising Congress

A New Order for A Brave New World

By Yoly Villanueva-Ong
20th Philippine Advertising Congress

Some 20 yrs ago, practically a lifetime ago, I was asked to go to my boss then, JayJay Calero, and close the door behind me. Now that's never a good sign. I immediately began reviewing any transgression I may have committed. Was I late? Did I miss a deadline? Did I bully an AE? Was a client complaining? I was so relieved to learn, I hadn't been called to the principal's office for any offense.

Instead I was being drafted into a most secret mission--- To launch toothpaste that competition had been spying about for many years. I was allowed only to work with one art director and the marketing director and later on, one brand manager who was housed in a separate office. No one from Unilever even knew there was a brand manager. We worked at first in the condominium of the MD and later in the "quarantined" brand manager's office-away-from-the-office. Only JWT's top management, my partner Gil Corcuera, the art director, and I knew about the pending product launch. 4 people in all were actively into Oplan Pepsodent. It proved to be one of Unilever's most successful secret guerrilla foray.

Fast forward, 20 + years later--- a variant of a personal care product is about to be launched. Prior to a most security conscious initial briefing, carefully selected, supposedly very limited no. of participants were asked to sign a confidentiality clause-on pain of the equivalent of excommunication: Imagine my shock to walk into a huge conference room with about 28 people: from brand agency, PR, Activation, Research, Shopper Marketing, Media Planning and Media Buying, Media Max, Interactive, plus the mirror image of the so-called specialists on client side and representatives of GASP!! Purchasing and Finance.

Juxtapose these two pictures for a moment. This is only one---the more politically correct version of Marketing and Advertising's brave new world ushering in whether we like it or not---a New Order.

Some may think the theme of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress "THE NEW ORDER" is a bit alarmist. Even in a trendsetting industry such as ours, developments that creep slowly and crisis that is smoldering rather than sudden, allow us the refuge, if not subterfuge of denial that we are being slowly pushed out of our comfort zone. Or we can pretend that what is happening is merely a fad that will die down when another new short-lived fad comes along.

That's what happened when we said Media Independents would, not make it to Philippine shores, or the 15% commission will remain our compensation norm. Some hope that TV networks will stick to improving their programming instead of dabbling in production of quasi-TV ads. Some wish that clients would still treat agencies as partners rather than lowest cost suppliers. Production houses long for the golden days when profit margins and bottom lines weren't squeezed to the last drop. And then there's the AdBoard, the 4As, OAAP and the other organizations threatened with the fever of secession. Uneasy unity is the natural consequence when as the Old Command breaks down and it's anybody's guess as to who will emerge the top bird in the latest pecking order, the new Capo di Tutti Cappi, the survivor of the fittest. Ahh...the Good old days!

Are we really at the threshold of a new era? Just as socio-anthropologists documented the paradigm shift from the Agricultural Age, to the Industrial Age to the Information Age--- is it possible that we are witnessing our own Industry revolution? Ad Age watches with a keen eye, a witness to transforming relationships, practices, and compensation. Even the nature of competition is changing, as bidding no longer means a war of ideas, as much as lower costs.

As fission, fusion, implosion, explosion occur, what could emerge is a mutation that no one can predict. Will we be a werewolf, dark foreboding and destructive? Or will we be Spiderman--- with enhanced superpowers that have yet to be discovered? Analysts are taking bets on our chances for survival. Will we be last man standing, or the Last Samurai?

But one might argue that change is life's only constant. This is nothing new. Been there, done that. Those of us who have been around longer have seen the re-emergence of the one-sight, one-sound global campaigns, expats and foreign productions. As with all major change, this triggers the half-full or half-empty perspective. As we ponder the unknown and test the waters of a morphing business, a repertoire of coping mechanisms come to fore. Mine cover the gamut--- from the ridiculous to the sublime, from tranquil to OC, from hysterical and histrionic to cerebral and outré. From "go with the flow", to the "wisdom of anxiety" to it's "Ok, the end is near anyway"!

Whether we are cheerful or glum about our future, no one can argue that we must try to **manage change**. The venue Subic is an almost perfect epitome of the New Order. Literally rising from the ashes, Subic has proven the doomsayers wrong. From chaos, Subic is emerging as one of the premier cities of destination, a far cry from the abandoned US base.

Change is never easy. So we're thrown a few lemons, let's make lemonade. Phuket, Thailand reeling from the tsunami that took more than 10,000 lives learned its lesson and designed a state-of-the-art National Disaster Warning Centre, and inaugurated a tsunami memorial museum complete with a simulated tidal wave. That's CHUTZPAH!

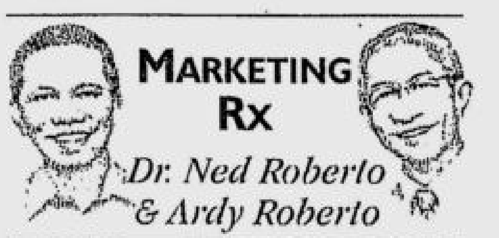
Just as technophobes made peace with new-fangled gadgets, so should our Industry learn to navigate a brave new world.

As a last thought, may I share a part of the valedictory address of Mikaela Fudolig, who graduated summa cum laude, BS Physics from the University of the Philippines at the ripe old age of 16. She said----

> **Take NOT the road less traveled.**
> **Rather, MAKE new roads,**
> **BLAZE new trails,**
> **FIND new routes to your dreams.**
>
> **We may not know**
> **how far we can go.**
> **But if we are brave, defiant searchers of excellence,**
> **we will go far.**
> **Explore possibilities,**
> **that others may get a similar chance.**

The 20th Philippine Advertising Congress might only scratch the surface, but collectively the Industry could trample a new path. Let us strike a league with destiny and together forge the New Order for a brave new world.

Medley of questions & Rx's



MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU TEST A MARketing plan? When we asked our new marketing director about it, this was what he said: "Let's see if we need to go into a replanning. Will you test this plan versus the marketing objectives we set for it?"

Answer: What's clear from the words of your boss that he wants you to show how your draft marketing plan will attain objectives. He's raising the issue of attainability of objectives. Of course, that's just one interpretation.

Testing a marketing plan can also refer to the acceptability or the "salability" of the plan to those departments in the company which are critical to the plan's successful implementation. There are at least three such departments: Sales distribution, finance and manufacturing.

Let's now tackle the first part: The issue of attainability of objectives.

First, objectives should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound.

Of these five, attainability is the most difficult to satisfy because a plan has to be in place to test it.

Your marketing plan proper starts with the setting of objectives. At that starting point, you can check if those objectives are specific, measurable, realistic and time-bound.

Each criterion is logically and/or computationally based. The criteria of "specific" and "realistic" are logically based. What's actionable, doable is specific. What's been done before and by others like us is realistic. As to a computationally based criteria, that's what the criteria of "measurable" and "time-bound" are for obvious reasons.

In contrast, the criterion of attainability is not only logically and computationally based but more importantly, it's dependent upon the "means" or strategy portion of the plan.

A plan is attainable if the strategies for meeting the objectives are correct.

That suggests that you cannot judge an objective's attainability at the start of the planning process or even during the planning process. You can do so only after your plan's strategies and programs for getting at the objectives have been crafted.

So, after your plan's first draft, you should pause, step back and then ask: "Do I have here a set of marketing strategies and programs that are strong enough to attain the objectives set for them?" If the answer is "yes," then the marketing plan has passed the test. If it's a "no," then the plan has failed and replanning is in order.

What about the second part of the test: The implementation issue?

Let's focus on the role of sales distribution.

We've said before that if the marketing plan is to succeed and even outdo itself, marketing and sales must work in synchrony. We've received a few e-mails telling us that this rule cannot qualify as benchmark marketing practice.

We were told that in their company marketing and sales have functioned separately and even independently. But nevertheless, marketing and sales quotas have been reached. When we e-mailed back and asked how this was possible, the reply explained that it was "because the functions of each of these organizational units have been clearly defined and religiously followed."

That explanation relates to a form of "working in synch." In this case, marketing and sales knew exactly what each has to do, including presumably how to relate to one another. If this is true, then working in synch has effectively been built in into the work processes.

Suppose this was not the case. Then we drew from our consulting experiences with this kind of marketing and sales setup to respond and say: "Can you imagine how much better results and how much more sales you could have gotten if those two were working in synchrony, and therefore creating synergy?" Just think about it. *(Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.)*

Debt and taxes: Tax implications of securities lending transactions

(First of two parts)

TAX-FILES

By Jose A. Osana and Francis J. Victoria
SGV & Co

THE STRENGTH OF ANY LOCAL ECONOmy has often been measured against the performance of the local stock exchange.

It has been the belief that a developing economy yields stock market profits for investors, while a weak economy finds its stock market plunged into troubles from which investors shy away.

Therefore, we find the government looking for ways to facilitate efficient trading settlements and introduce investment alternatives, as exemplified by the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) recent issuance of Revenue Regulations 5-2007.

RR 5-2007 issued on March 6 and published on May 10, 2007 prescribe the guidelines and tax treatment of Securities Borrowing and Lending (SBL) or Securities Lending Transactions (SLT) involving the Fixed-Income Securities Lending Program of the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corporation (PDEx).

RR No. 5-2007 is related to RR 10-2006, which prescribe the guidelines and tax treatment of SBL/SLT involving shares of stock or securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

SBL/SLT in general

Lending of securities for both equity and debt instruments has been practiced in many developed countries like the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan and Australia since the 1970s.

In the Philippines, SBL/SLT was not formally introduced as a regulated practice until 1997.

In fact, it was only in 2006 when the guidelines were issued by the PSE, SEC and BIR primarily to regulate SBL/SLT involving shares of stock or securities listed on the PSE.

Although no hard data are available, PSE has acknowledged that securities lending is a trillion dollar business which therefore has a significant impact on the financial service industry on a global scale.

This is seconded by a finding of the International Securities Lending Association (Isla), a leading international trade association based in the UK, which showed that in 2007 alone, the balance of securities on loans exceeded $2 trillion internationally.

As such, SBL/SLT has been characterized as an integral element of securities trading and capital development among emerging markets and recognized as a vital facility behind the efficient trading settlements and growth of derivative markets.

The government has thus deemed it proper to keep abreast of this market trend, which is why it issued enabling guidelines and regulations to govern and promote securities lending transactions within the PSE and PDEx.

Foremost of these regulations are RR 10-2006 and the complementary issuances of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC Memorandum Circular 7, Series of 2006 issued on June 9, 2006) and PSE (Rules on Securities Borrowing and Lending).

Governing rules

SLT under RR 10-2006 involves the lending of shares of stocks or securities by the lender, who owns or controls them, to the borrower who needs the shares of stocks/securities borrowed to support trading strategies or settlement obligations, in exchange for collateral, and the promise to return the equivalent shares of stocks/securities at the end of the borrowing period.

The borrowing period in any agreement cannot be more than two years.

The borrower usually uses or disposes of the shares of stocks/securities borrowed strictly in connection with a particular purpose or purposes allowed and defined under RR No. 10-2006.

Being fungible in character (or replaceable with another thing of equivalent kind, quality and quantity), the borrowed shares of stocks/securities are transferred from the lender to the borrower.

For the duration of the SLT period under the agreement, the lender is deemed to have temporarily lost ownership of the shares of stock/securities lent but acquires a contractual right to receive all benefits accruing to the shares of stock/securities.

The objective is to put the lender in the same economic position as the lender would have been had the securities not been lent. This means that in case of corporate actions like grant of stock rights, dividend declarations and other benefits accruing to the shares of stock, the borrower would have to "manufacture" the corresponding benefits and return them to the lender as if the shares of stock/securities never left his hands.

A "manufactured income" or substitute payment, otherwise referred to as "pass through payment" consists of any or both of the following: (1) interest income or coupon payment received from the lent/borrowed securities arising from corporate action of the issuer; and/or (2) interest income that has accrued and been received by the borrower from its sale of the lent/borrowed securities, which the borrower is obliged to "pass on" to the lender during the life of the SBL/SLT, in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

For example, assume that shares in ABC Company currently sell for P10 a share. X short seller would borrow 100 shares of ABC Company, and then immediately sell those shares for P1,000.

If the price of ABC shares later falls to P8 a share, the short seller would then buy 100 shares back for P800, return the shares to their original owner, and make a P200 profit.

This practice, however, has the potential for an unlimited loss. For example, if the shares of ABC that one borrowed and sold in fact went up to P25, the short seller would have to buy back all the shares at P2,500, losing P1,500.

In effect, SBL is similar to a simple collateralized cash loan transaction. However, instead of cash, what is borrowed are listed shares of stock/securities and what is provided as collateral is cash, government or equity securities, or guaranteed letter of credit.

RR 10-2006 specify the purpose/s for which the borrowed securities may be used:

1. Settlement of sale of Philippine securities effected in the Philippines or elsewhere. Shares of stock/securities may be borrowed to avoid failure to deliver for the settlement of a sale. This happens when a "failed settlement" occurs or when the seller cannot deliver what he owns on time and therefore would need to borrow to settle his obligations;

2. Settlement of a future sale whether agreed or not at the time the borrowing is effected. Shares of stock/securities may be borrowed in advance of a sale if it is anticipated that the borrowed shares of stock/securities will be required for settlement of the future sale;

3. Replacement in whole or in part of securities obtained by the borrower under another SBL agreement. Where a lender demands the early return of borrowed shares of stock/securities, a borrower without enough of the shares of stock/securities demanded to be returned can borrow equivalent shares of stock/securities from a third party to repay the first lender.

The replacement borrowing may be for the whole, or part only, of the previously borrowed shares of stock/securities. A condition applying to such an arrangement is that the initial borrowing must itself be an SBL within the meaning of these regulations.

Moreover, the second borrowing must also be under an SBL governed by RR 10-2006;

4. On-lending of borrowed securities to another borrower who has entered into another SBL agreement. This occurs when an SBL is made by an agent for on-lending to another borrower who also entered into an SBL. However, the subsequent borrower must use the borrowed shares of stock/securities only for any of the specified purposes under RR 10-2006;

5. Securities financing and collateral pledging. Shares of stocks/securities may be used by the borrower as collateral for loans. The borrowed shares of stock may, in turn, be used by the borrower as a commodity to lend to participants in securities market so that the participants can carry out their investments and financing efforts;

6. Such other purposes similar or analogous to the above or as may be authorized by the BIR.

These are all reduced into a written contract called the Master Securities Lending Agreement (MSLA) between the borrower and lender (or the lending agent) embodying the terms and conditions defined under RR 10-2006 for the conduct of the SBL transactions.

Pizza-celebration!

From page B2-1

The branch, with a 58-person dining capacity and a function room also boasts of a well-trained customer service crew from the Magsaysay Group, which supplies manpower to cruise ships. This enables the crew to serve more meticulously than the traditional fast-food chain crew.

Even the details indicated comfort: the store wash room sports a hand dryer that does the job in three seconds, says Narciso.

To top it off, the store launched Greenwich's first 18-inch "Celebration Pizza."

"We also added details to cater to the gadget-crazy market," Acla said.

Speaking of gadgets, the new store's personnel take orders using personal digital assistants and send these straight to the kitchen.

The new branch is also equipped with wireless Internet access and outlets for charging cell phones or laptops for those on the go.

The outlet is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with a 24-hour operation being considered.

The first fast casual dining outlet is Greenwich's 244th branch in the Philippines, and the pizza chain is looking to open three to five more branches with the same concept by yearend.

"This happened to be a franchise store but we are replicating this in other stores," Narciso said, adding that Greenwich has plans to break into the international market by next year.

Cheers to that!

GREENWICH franchisees Allan Ngo (left) and Cyrus Acla (center) cut the ceremonial pizza at the formal opening ceremony.

Skillful marketing key to business success

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

ASK ANY PERSON DRIVEN BY AMBITION and he aspires to have his own business. No doubt his desire is fired by the inspirational stories of successful entrepreneurs and business owners.

When asked what the secrets to success of these icons are, many venture to say: Hard work, perseverance, luck, a good product and even divine intervention.

Very few cite skillful marketing in growing and sustaining a business as key to success. Yet marketing is recognized as the business process meant to create demand for products and services.

Myths, truths

Most business owners view marketing as an unnecessary expense. Not too many see it as a means to generate business. Or a guarantee to protecting one's ground in the future when more players come in, sleeping competitors wake up or when a brand crisis strikes.

Here are some myths associated with marketing.

- **Marketing communications, often associated with advertising, can be deferred or done away with as long as the products and services are massively available in trade.**

The truth is, without investments in awareness-building marketing activities, it may take time for end-users to know the product or service exists and in many cases, they may not know it at all.

Time is very precious these days. Fewer consumers have the time to shop around. Thus, it is to the advantage of the product or service when consumers are informed of its benefits even before they reach the trade area.

Having a wide distribution has its advantage and tremendous costs in the form of listing fees and/or retail margins. But manufacturers and service providers must realize that while listing fees and substantial trade margins are part of marketing expense, these are meant to guarantee a space in the retailers' shelves and not the customers' mind space.

- **As long as the product or service sells, there is no real need to fortify with image-building and sustaining marketing activities.**

Not true. Marketing aims to optimize and sustain the brand for generations to come. What a business owner must assess is what segment of the universe of the potential market one wishes to serve and for how long will the market be served.

- **Having good advertising is enough to compel consumers to buy a product.**

Not true. Successful marketing is the sum of complementary marketing activities that include having a good product, right pricing, wide distribution and awareness programs that reach the intended market with a unique, differentiated and compelling benefit.

Not one of the marketing mix can be disassociated from the rest and not one can singularly claim as the reason for the success of any product or service.

Marketing is like a spoke to a wheel and vice versa. Having great advertising copy that stimulates demand is a plus to getting the product and the brand name into the consciousness of the target market much faster.

This means that the advertising copy must do what a foot salesman is unlikely to accomplish—be a salesperson simultaneously to thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of targeted people for every commercial exposure be it on print, outdoor or broadcast media.

- **Being on the trade shelf is a guarantee of a product's movement.**

Not always true. Here comes the special relationship of trade accounts and marketing people with retailers.

The trade marketing people must make sure that the branch or area manager, category-in-charge, customer service people are aware of the product's existence on the shelf.

A call to the customer service counter or a query with the floor sales attendant can be a lost sales opportunity if the response is in the negative when in fact the product has been sitting on the shelf.

- **Customer feedback is often negative.**

Not true. If the customer is satisfied with the product or service delivery, then positive feedback comes unsolicited.

On the other hand, if the product or service meets a need, but potential customers were disheartened during the sales process, they are likely to provide constructive feedback that will enable the provider to deliver the product or service in a better way.

Franchisees need not do marketing. If you are a franchisee, demand that the franchisor engage in substantial and effective marketing. After all, a percentage of the franchise fees go to marketing expense.

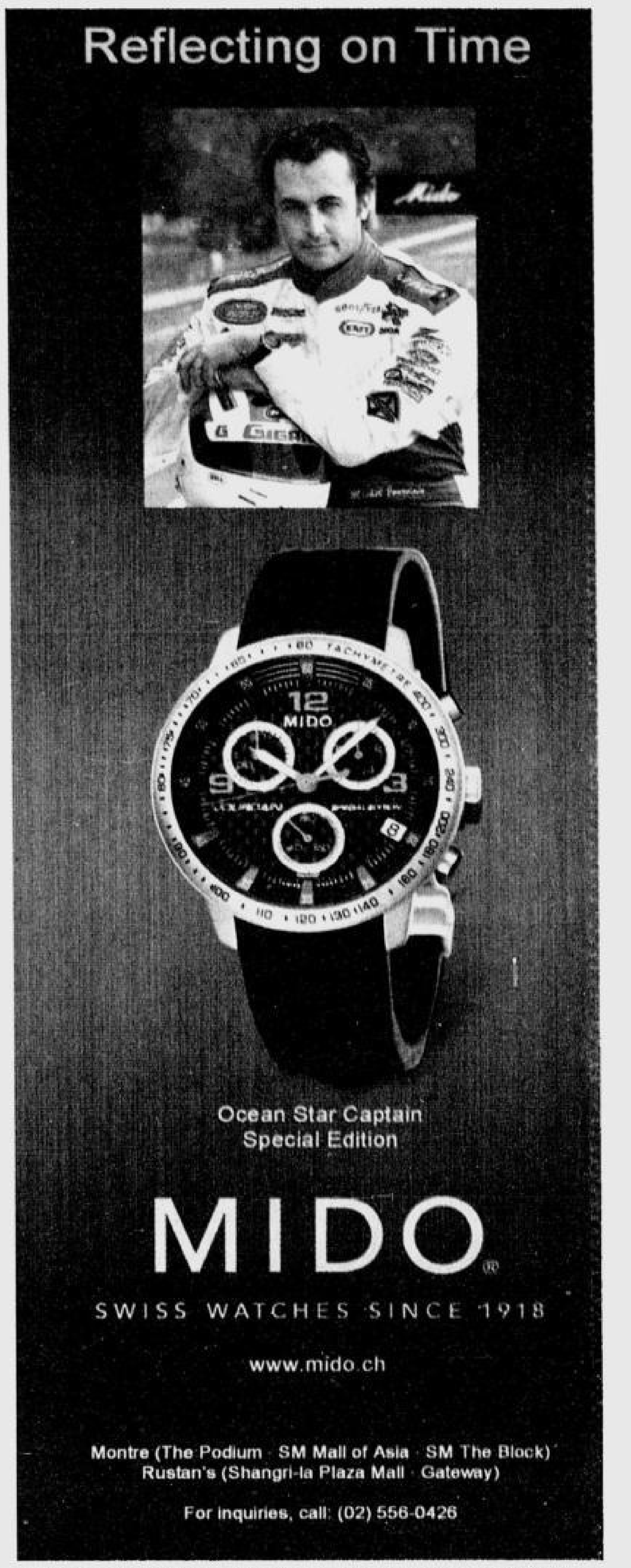
But this does not prevent the franchisee to engage in incremental marketing activities at local store level, with the permission of the franchisor, to create demand for one's own store. The same principle applies to malls and their tenants. Malls must help create the right foot traffic for its tenants.

Tenants, on the other hand, can engage in additional marketing activities that will ensure that foot traffic that goes into the mall also leads into the tenant's shop.

- **Business owners can chart and do the marketing themselves.**

True, but they need to understand what marketing and creating demand for products and services entails. Or they can avail themselves of expert skills. Still, they must ascertain the skill and know-how of the marketer or consultant they are getting on board. If marketing is not done well, it can be a costly and self-destructive exercise.

(The writer is author of the book "Color Folders of the Mind: A Branding Story" which deals about marketing and branding including the business issues and opportunities it addresses. Available in National Bookstore, Powerbooks and Bestsellers outlets and online at www.karendeasis.com)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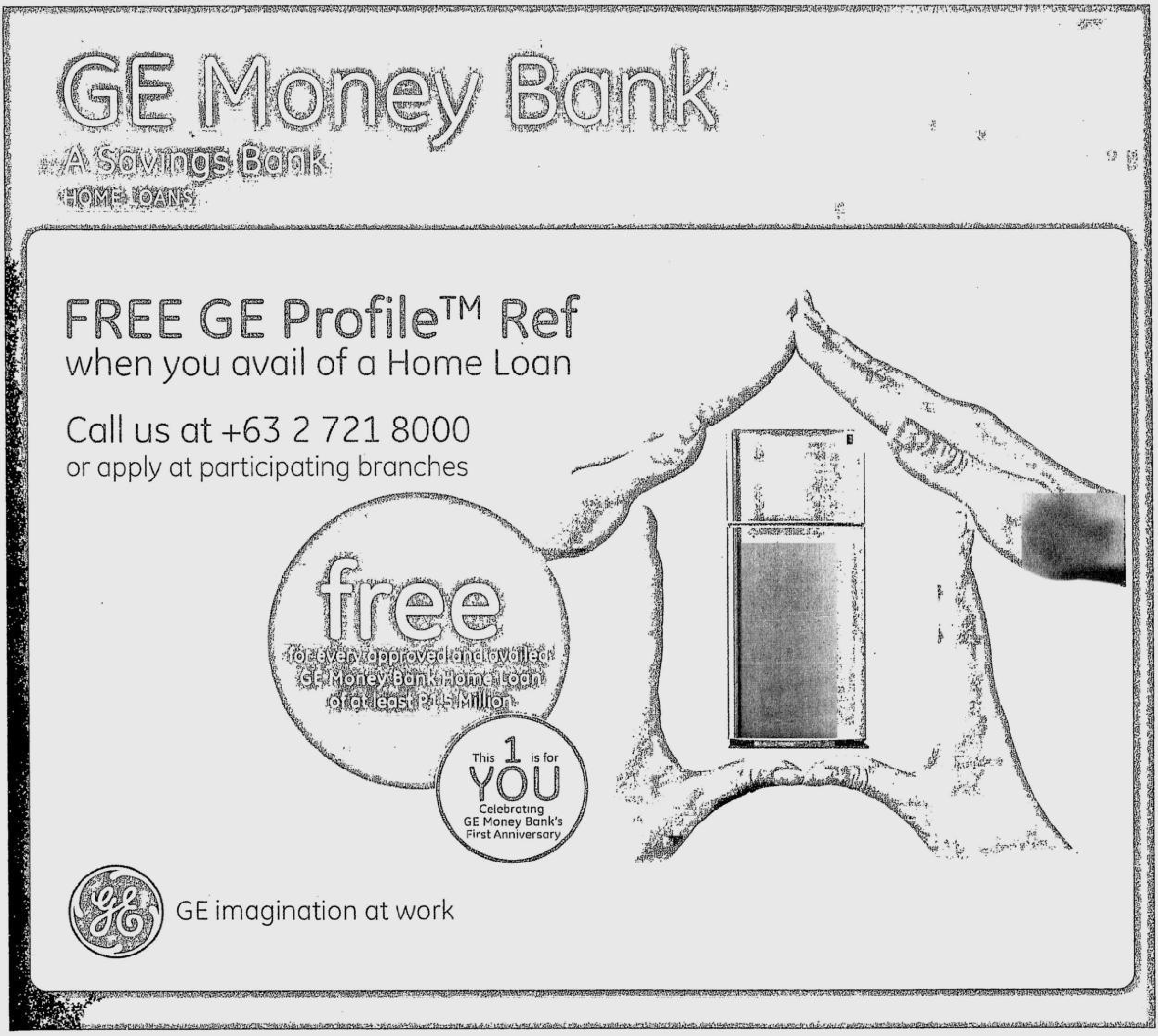
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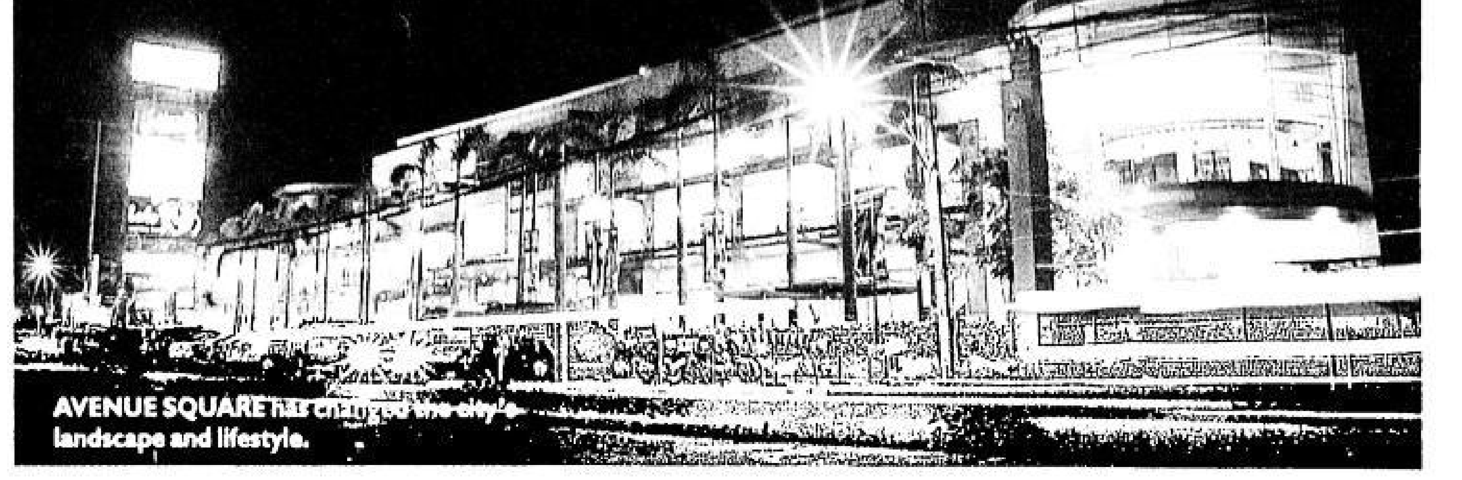
Lifestyle center stirs up Naga's commercial development

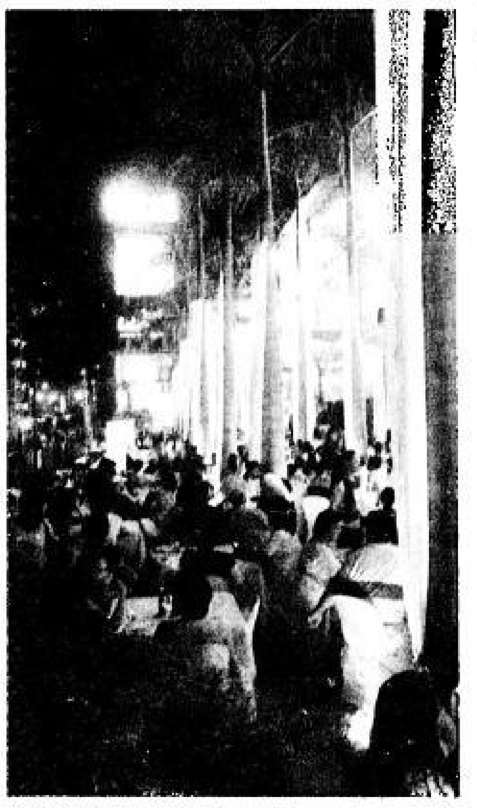
Text and photos by Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon



AVENUE SQUARE has changed the city's landscape and lifestyle.

NAGA CITY—BANKER FIDEL L. CU, CHAIRMAN OF THE G7 Holdings Corp., has changed the landscape and stirred new trends in commercial development here when he built and opened in 2006 the Avenue Square, a commercial enclave designed as a lifestyle center.

With a 65-room four-star designed hotel and a mix of bars, spas, diners, fitness and wellness center in its 2,000-square-meter commercial spaces and 600-person capacity function hall, Cu's Avenue Square has not only changed the city's landscape but their lifestyle as well.



AVENUE SQUARE at night

A website literature defined the lifestyle center as "a shopping center or mixed-used commercial development that combines the traditional retail functions of a shopping mall but with leisure amenities oriented toward upscale consumers."

In the Naga City setting, the lifestyle center Cu built is a high-end place where businessmen and associates can meet, transact business or just enjoy the amenities.

New trend

Engineer Emeterio Aman, real estate developer in Naga City, said the commercial development Cu pioneered made him revise some components of the real estate development plan of one of his subdivision projects.

He said that instead of a two-story building that would provide hotel services in his project Hacienda de Naga, he would instead build cabanas and fully furnished hotel-like apartments to complement Avenue Square's lifestyle center.

Aldolfo Olivan of the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry acknowledged that Cu's pioneering initiative has set a new trend in commercial development here.

Olivan said Avenue Square has become instrumental in bringing in new experience because of its leisurely ambiance and comforts brought about by the architecture and interior design.

"*Magayon baga* (It's beautiful)," he said.

Impressed by the impact of the Avenue Square on the thriving commercial strip of Magsaysay Avenue here that changed the Naga City's beat after a year's operation, Olivan decided to develop his adjacent property following designs of commercial buildings that harmonize with Cu's lifestyle center.

Citations from city

Wilfredo Prilles, chief of the Naga City Planning Office, bared that originally, Olivan planned to put up warehouses in the property in front of the Avenue Square but changed his plan when advised that this would destroy the ambiance of the whole area and violate city zoning ordinance.

Prilles said they were happy Olivan heeded their advice.

He said one reason why the Avenue Square thrives is the large segment of the city's middle class while its poverty incidence is the lowest in Bicol, with only 1 out of every 5 households living below the poverty line.

Prilles noted the decisive role of the business sector in shaping the socioeconomic and socio-cultural scenes here.

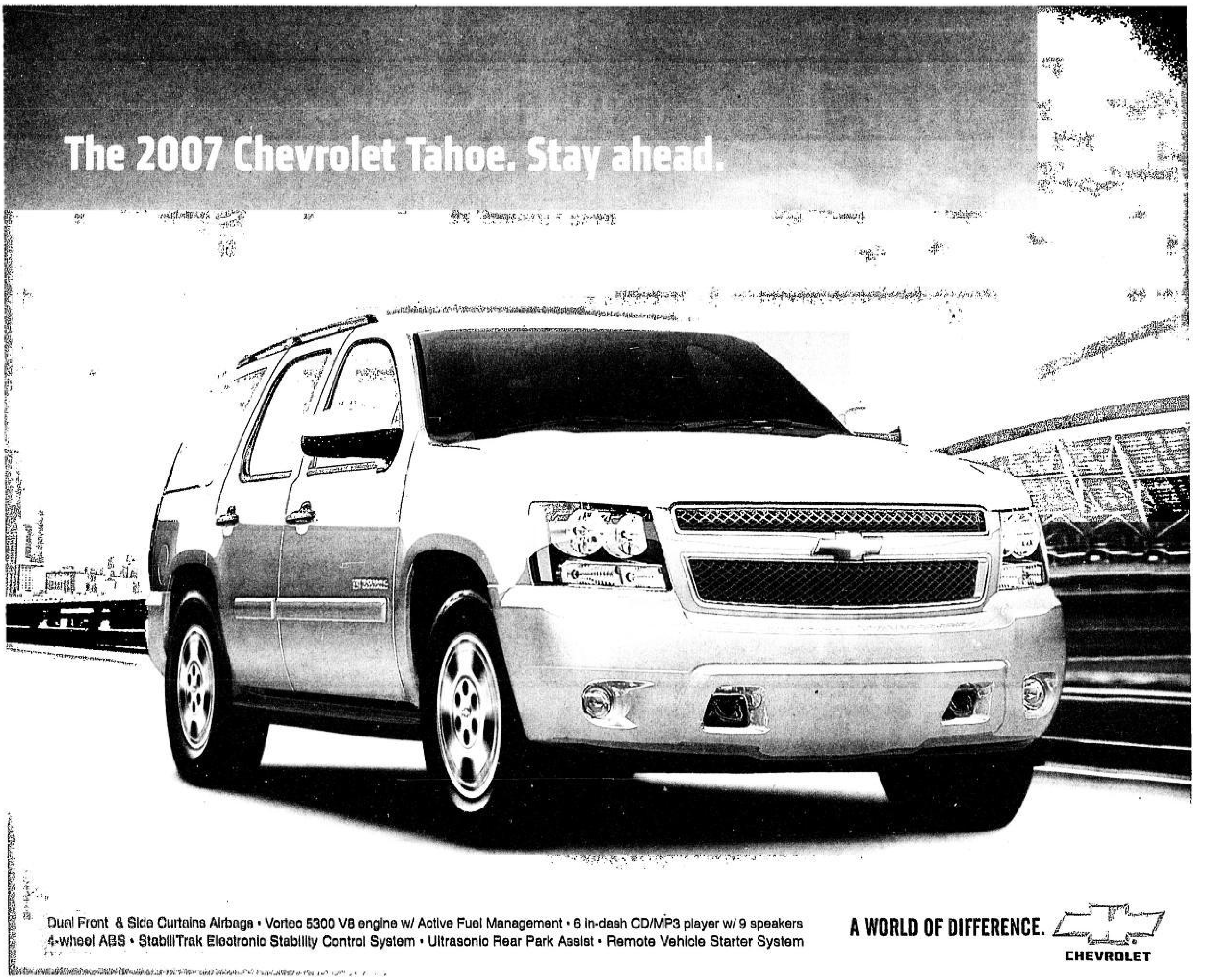
He said the city government has not anticipated the private sector's track of commercial development in Magsaysay Avenue, far from the city governments' designated Central Business District II, that has yet to be developed, even though Shoemart plans to put up a mall there.

In his inaugural policy statement upon assumption to his last term of office, Mayor Jesse Robredo noted that Avenue Square has perked up the economic activities in the city and made the city more vibrant and tourist-friendly.

Cu's business achievements have earned recognition from the local government unit here when the Sangguniang Panglungsod passed Resolution 2007-260 that commended his "exemplary accomplishments and remarkable contribution to the business community that has brought sustainable growth and development of Naga City."

Last year, the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry also bestowed to this banker and developer the 2006 Halayao (archaic Bicol for merchant) Award as Bicolano Businessman of the Year.

At the helm of the Avenue Square's operation is Cu's son Allan, the president of G7 Holdings Corp., while daughter-in-law Gwen is its managing director.



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5th PICPA-ACPACI Joint Convention

Beyond the shores

GLOBALIZATION INTRODUCED A sea of change in the way business is conducted. This redefined and expanded the role of the CPAs. Their work has become more analytical and less transactional. They are asked to deliver services other than those they traditionally provide. The coming changes are even much tougher as they need to compete in the bigger global environment and survive the stiffer competition. Going global does not leave them a choice but to prepare and learn how to thrive amidst the tougher national and international regulations, and how to transform the new challenges into rewarding opportunities.

This is the focus of the 5th Joint Annual Convention of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI), under the presidency of dean Estelita C. Aguirre, and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), led by Dr. Andres R. Cabuyadao as president. The three-day event, which will run from September 21-23, 2007 at the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City, will feature technical sessions and fellowship activities.

With theme "Reaching Beyond Borders", Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri, the convention's keynote speaker, will lead the roster of resource speakers on various issues affecting the CPAs and the accounting profession. He will be joined by Baguio City Mayor Reinaldo A. Bautista Jr in declaring the convention open on September 21.

The opening ceremonies will be followed by a session on the theme "The Filipino Businessman: Reaching Beyond Borders", which will be handled by Mr Francisco C. Sebastian, president of First Metro Investment Corporation. Lawyer Alexander Cabrera, Tax Services managing partner of Isla, Lipana & Co and Roderick Danao, a partner of the same firm, will discuss the significant differences between Philippine taxation and the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards in subsequent technical session.

A panel of distinguished speakers composed of the Board of Accountancy (BOA) chair Eugene Mateo, BOA vice chair John Bala and SGV Partner and former BOA chair Eduardo de Guia will also discuss the recent developments in the accountancy profession that affect the CPAs and the opportunities that await the CPAs beyond borders. The discussion will be led and facilitated by Hon. Oscar Orbos.

In another session, Ms Wilma V. Galvante, SVP of GMA Network Inc, will discuss the topic "The Filipino Artists: Going Beyond Borders".

Fellowship, social and sports activities will also be held during the affair. The convention committee is led by Ms Ophelia Camina, past president of ACPACI and past national director of PICPA.

Warmest greetings to the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and the Commerce and Industry Sector of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) as you hold your 5th Joint, Convention with the theme, "Reaching Beyond Borders."

This convention emphasizes your commitment to institute financial reforms and to promote transparency and prudence in corporate and government spending. Indeed, the Philippines is facing brighter economic prospects because of your big contribution in curbing corruption and in checking wasteful and unnecessary spending.

Our national agenda is designed to move our country toward greater political stability, economic prosperity, and peace and order. Our focus now is to bring the benefits of a strong economy to every Filipino even as we put in place massive infrastructure to attract more investments, create more jobs and beat poverty. As active partners of government, I ask you to join me in our efforts to achieve a 7- to 8- percent growth rate in the next three years.

May your convention result in meaningful exchanges so that we could effectively translate sound fiscal policies into sustainable gains.

Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest and most cordial greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Association of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry on the occasion of your 5th Joint Convention in Baguio City with the theme "Reaching Beyond Borders".

I truly commend PICPA and ACPACI for their efforts in advancing the cause of the accounting profession and the CPAs in the commerce and industry sector. This convention will not just serve as a venue for updating your members on the latest developments in the field of accountancy, but also a great opportunity to discuss, assess and enhance the competency of the Filipino CPAs as they compete beyond the Philippine borders.

You have been supportive of the various programs and projects of the government. We shall continue to count on your full support of its other developmental efforts. To all the officers and members of PICPA and ACPACI, our sincerest gratitude for working with us in improving the lives of your fellow Filipinos.

More power and Mabuhay!

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

It is my pleasure to send my warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry on the occasion of your 5th Joint Annual Convention.

It is most gratifying to note the partnership that your two organizations have forged. It is an encouraging development that demonstrates the solidarity of the certified public accountancy profession. Your theme "Reaching Beyond Borders" is evidence of the widening scope of public accountancy. At a time when or country is making great strides as an emerging economy in Asia, there is a greater need for the services, the vigilance and integrity of our CPAs.

As investment opportunities abound, it has become more important for you CPAs to contribute towards making the economic climate in our country attractive to potential investment partners both here and abroad. Investments must be seen to be secured through the work of organizations such as the PICPA and Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry.

I encourage your members to take part enthusiastically in this convention and to show your world-class caliber as Certified Public Accountants.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO
Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)

In behalf of the Board of Accountancy, I would like to convey our warmest greetings and commendations to the organizers and participants of the 5th Joint Annual Convention of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and the Commerce and Industry Sector of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) to be held on September 21 to 23, 2007 at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City.

Your conference theme "Reaching Beyond Borders" is indeed very appropriate and timely. In this day and age, the world is no longer what it used to be. With the advent of the New Economy, there are higher demands for efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness. With barrier-free business and state of the art.communication as pillars of globalization, the pace of the change has never been this fast. These current economic developments affecting the financial and corporate world calls for an accounting profession that is capable to respond to the needs of the times. As CPAs with a mission — that of being the business world's most trusted advisors, it becomes necessary for all of us to be professionally competent. Moreover, we must continue to pursue what is right with compassion and dedication, strong sense of morality, independence and integrity. As wave after wave of advancements come our way, we must learn to ride at the crest and not at the bottom. Mastery over modernization is the only way we could stay afloat and achieve the extraordinary. This gathering serves as a good venue for addressing such concerns.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention.

EUGENE T. MATEO
Chairman
Board of Accountancy (BOA)

We pay tribute to the members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) on the occasion of their 5th Joint Annual Convention slated in the City on September 21-23, 2007.

As associations committed to uplifting the standards of their profession and to continually nurturing and building the capabilities of their members, the PICPA and ACPACI have successfully carved their niches in the field of service to humanity.

May this gathering work to strengthen PICPA's and ACPACI's aspirations, enhance their work standards and foster camaraderie and unity within their ranks.

Godspeed.

REINALDO A. BAUTISTA, JR.
City Mayor
Baguio City

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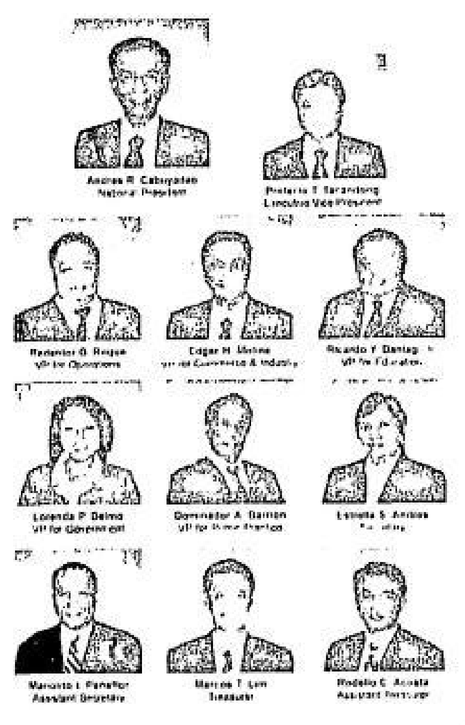

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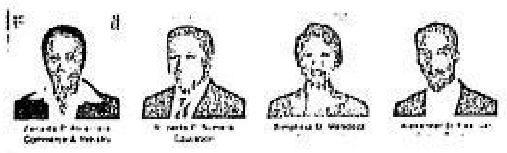

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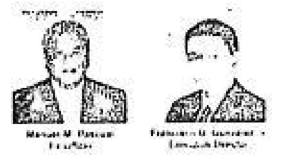

Regional Directors

Romeo M. Francisco

In behalf of the officers and directors of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA), I would like to convey my warmest greetings to the participants and guests of our 5th Joint Annual Convention.

Our theme, Reaching Beyond Borders, truly manifests the continuing thrust of our professional organizations to propel the CPAs to greater heights and broader environment beyond the national shores with more valuable services to offer. This calls your leaders to develop and implement programs aimed at enhancing your competencies, expanding your services and strengthening your values for there is a real need for all of us, CPAs, to get out of our comfort zones and explore other avenues of service that will benefit our publics.

Our three-day convention, thus, focuses on the discussion and resolution of relevant issues affecting us and our profession, the new challenges and demands of the ever changing business environment, as well as the opportunities that we need to seize to make us and our profession valuable components of the economic value chain.

I would like to commend the Convention Committee and the officers and members of ACPACI for their support and active participation in making this year's affair a success. Take this opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of your peers and widen your alliance with fellow CPA's from all parts of the country.

Mabuhay!

ANDRES R. CABUYADAO
2007-2008 PICPA National President

About PICPA

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC Accountants, nationally known as PICPA, is the accredited professional organization of CPAs in the country. The Institute was organized to enhance the practice of accountancy in the Philippines and to protect the integrity of the CPA certificate. Membership in the PICPA is restricted to registered CPAs.

The Institute is now composed of 9 regions, 89 local and 14 International chapters. PICPA is an active member of the Asean Federation of Accountants (AFA); International Federation of Accountants (IFAC); International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), and the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA).

The Institute was founded in November 1929 by a group of illustrious pioneers in the accounting profession: Enrique Caguiat, Santiago dela Cruz, Francisco Dalupan, Jaime Hernandez, Felipe Ollada, Ramon del Rosario, Antonio Sanchez, Jose Torres, Artemio Tulio, Clemente Uson and Jesus Zulueta.

The group set forth the following objectives:

- To promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards among accountants;
- To advance the science of accounting;
- To develop and improve accountancy education;
- To encourage cordial relations among accountants, and
- To protect the Certificate of the Certified Public Accountant granted by the Republic of the Philippines.

William W. Larkin, holder of CPA Certificate No. 1, became the First President of the Institute in 1929. It was during Larkin's time that the Constitution and by-laws was created and drafted. The organization was then known as the Philippine Institute of Accountants. In 1964 during the presidency of Arsenio D. Narciso, the institute's old name was restored from Philippine Institute of Accountants to PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

PICPA Mission & Vision

Mission

PICPA is the globally-recognized and integrated national organization of Filipino CPAs in all sectors.

Its mission is to enhance the integrity of the accountancy profession, serve the best interest of its members and other stakeholders, and contribute to the attainment of the country's national objectives.

These can be achieved through a responsive organizational structure, committed leadership, effective professional development programs abreast with state-of-the-art technology, strict implementation of professional ethics, promotion of high standards of accounting education, and advocacy of and participation in relevant national issues.

Vision

"To be strong, dynamic and unified professional organization of highly - respected, world-class and socially-committed certified public accountants worthy of esteem of the Filipino people."

Core values

PICPA adheres to the highest ideals of professionalism and commitment to service and upholds the values of:

- INTEGRITY - We advocate the TRUTH and conduct ourselves at all times with honesty, uprightness and adherence to sound moral principles, thereby gaining the respect of the public.
- PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE - We are committed to render excellent professional service to every member and to the profession.
- INNOVATION - We seek and apply new ideas to improve performance. We continuously promote creativity, flexibility and resourcefulness amidst constant change.
- DISCIPLINE - We strictly adhere to the code of professional conduct promulgated by the Institute while promoting the highest spiritual, moral and ethical standards.
- TEAMWORK - We uphold a strong bond of unity, working in the spirit of harmony and commonality.
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - We commit ourselves to a strong, active and devoted sense of duty to society.
- COMMITMENT - We bind ourselves to uphold these ideals to ensure the accomplishment of PICPA's Mission and attainment of PICPA's Vision.

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Reaching Beyond Borders... is a call to assess our capabilities, competencies and the services that we offer as we all gear up for the global business environment which introduced and continue to introduce new business models and concepts that redefine the practice of our profession. It is likewise a call to elevate our capabilities and competencies to global standards, and broaden our services to meet the demands of our clients here and abroad.

The opportunities are already abound in the local arena but there are more and maybe boundless that await us beyond our borders. All we need to know is how to seize them. However, the question is how ready are we in meeting the demands and surmounting the challenges that go with it? Are we ready to compete in the globe? And are we ready to get out of our comfort zones and explore other avenues of service that will make us more valuable to our publics?

This is the focus of our 5th Joint PICPA-ACPACI Convention here in Baguio City. Our technical sessions will dwell on the discussion of the urgent and important national and global issues affecting us CPAs, and the latest developments in our profession, as well. Our fellowship and sports activities will certainly give us another opportunity to build new friendship, have fun and share experiences with our colleagues in the commerce and industry sector.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry, I thank all the delegates, guests and our distinguished guest speakers for joining us in this momentous event. I also would like to thank the working committee for organizing and managing this convention, and PICPA for co-hosting this affair.

Maraming Salamat at Mabuhay!

ESTELITA C. AGUIRRE
President
Association of CPAs in Commerce & Industry
(ACPACI)

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About ACPACI

Profile

In March 1973, fifteen (15) individuals sought to create an institutional forum focused in the pursuit of common professional interest to public accountants. To address a common goal, they established the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) with the founding members as the first set of directors and officers. Through the years, membership increased to about two hundred seventy four (274) committed members composed of Comptrollers, Finance Officers and other executives affiliated with top corporations. Today, ACPACI has become a truly cohesive group of professionals in the Commerce and Industry sector sworn to provide quality financial and allied services directed to attaining effective business decisions. It now maintains active participation with other sectoral organizations in the accounting profession - the Association of CPAs in Public Practice (ACPAP), the Government Association of CPAs (GACPA), the Association of CPAs in Education (ACPAE) - and is a dynamic member of the national organization of CPA's, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

ACPACI seeks to upgrade the professional development of the CPAs in the sector. In addition, it aims to:

- Promote advancement of the accounting profession in the field of commerce and industry through research, seminars, discussions and dynamic exchange of knowledge amongst its members;
- Assist members in addressing common problems in accounting, information systems, business finance, administration, and management;
- Promote high professionalism and adherence to established ethical standards in the performance of services and responsibilities;
- Maintain effective liaison with the members of other sectoral organizations;
- Assist and cooperate with the Board of Accountancy in the attainment of its objectives.

Participative membership

ACPACI is a dynamic organization that keeps abreast with national developments taken from the active participation and cooperation of its members. The monthly membership meetings sustain the Association's affairs and closer interaction to address and take a stand on relevant issues.

Where learning experience takes place

ACPACI is an institution that builds expertise and creates an environment of learning and fellowship. The annual convention provides a broader venue for interaction and freshens exchange of ideas on major developments in national and economic issues. It offers highly interesting sessions and current topics presented by experts and knowledgeable speakers. It also serves as a forum to make a firm stand on national and social issues through resolutions and position papers as approved by its members.

Continuing professional education program

ACPACI provides a good avenue for the continuing professional education of its members through a series of seminars and lectures.

Social development and nation building

The Association undertakes social development projects in addition to the livelihood projects conducted to promote productivity and self-reliance for target beneficiaries. Through these projects, the Association recognizes the greater task ahead of us. Fulfillment of these responsibilities include pooling of our individual talents and resources towards the attainment of national growth and development.

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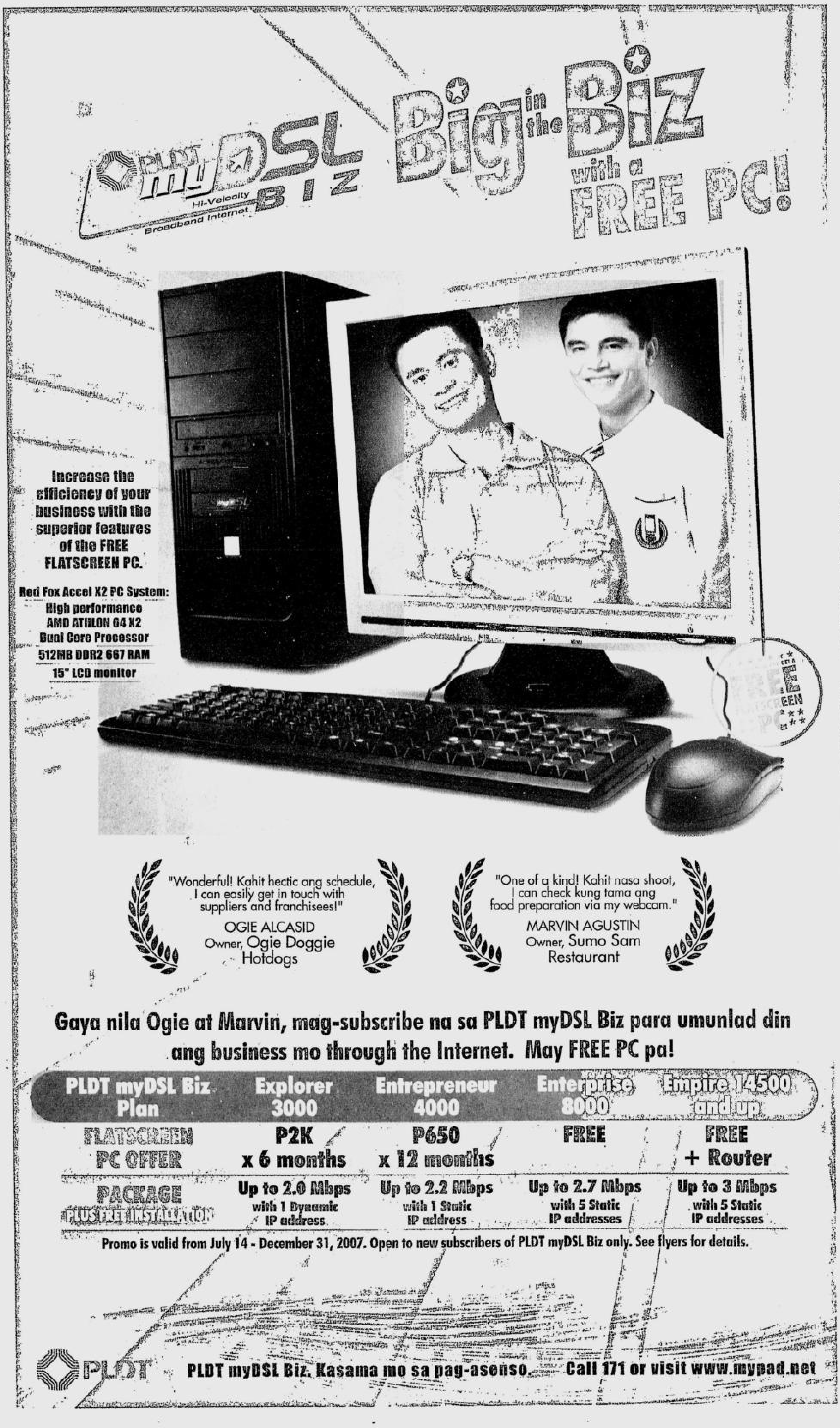
Programme *at a glance*

TIME	DAY 1 (September 21 - Friday)	DAY 2 (September 22 - Saturday)	DAY 3 (September 23 - Sunday)
5:00 AM	**DEPARTURE FROM MANILA OF BUS** Assembly place: SM City North Edsa, Parking Area		
7:00 AM		**BREAKFAST** Baguio Country Club	**BREAKFAST** Baguio Country Club
9:00 AM		**TECHNICAL SESSION 2** Topic: ***PFRS vs Tax - Significant Differences*** Speakers: **Atty. Alexander B. Cabrera** Managing Partner, Tax Services, Isla Lipana & Co. **Mr. Roderick M. Danao** Assurance Partner, Isla Lipana & Co.	
10:30 AM	**REGISTRATION** Baguio Country Club		**DEPARTURE FROM BAGUIO OF BUS**
11:30 AM	**LUNCH** Baguio Country Club	**LUNCHEON MEETING** Topic: ***The Filpino Artist: Going Beyond Borders*** Speaker: **Ms. Wilma V. Galvante** SVP for Entertainment TV, GMA 7	
1:30 PM	**OPENING PLENARY SESSION** ***"Reaching Beyond Borders"*** Speaker: **Hon. Juan Miguel Zubiri** Senator Republic of the Philippines	**TECHNICAL SESSION 3** Panel Discussion: ***The Filpino CPAs: Going Beyond Borders*** Moderator **Hon. Oscar M. Orbos** Former Governor, Pangasinan Speakers: **Hon. Eugene T. Mateo** **Hon. John S. Bala** **Hon. Eduardo B. de Guia**	
3:00 PM	**TECHNICAL SESSION 1** Topic. ***The Filpino Businessman: Going Beyond Borders*** Speaker: **Mr. Francis C. Sebastian** President, First Metro Inv. Corp.	**CLOSING PLENARY SESSION**	
5:00 PM	**Free Time / Bowling Tournament**	**Anticipated Mass at Baguio Country Club**	
7:00 PM	**FELLOWSHIP / DINNER** Theme: Hit na Jacket Guests: Pinoy Pop Superstars	**FELLOWSHIP / DINNER / DANCE** Theme: Star of the Night Guest: Sugar Pops	



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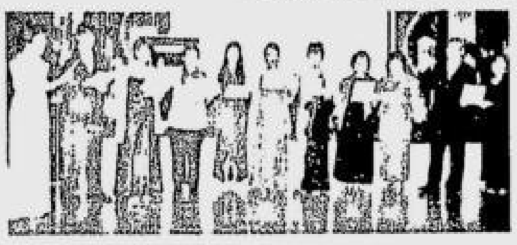
My warmest greetings to the members of the Philippine Institute of CPAs (PICPA) and the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI), as well as to the delegates and guests of the 5th Joint PICPA-ACPACI Convention here in Baguio City.

With the theme, Reaching Beyond Borders, our three-day convention will be filled with technical sessions with the objectives of updating us on the latest developments in our profession, prepare us for the greater demands of our various publics, and help us transform the challenges of the global environment into enormous business opportunities. We have also lined up activities that will give us a great time for fun, networking and to enjoy everything that Baguio can offer.

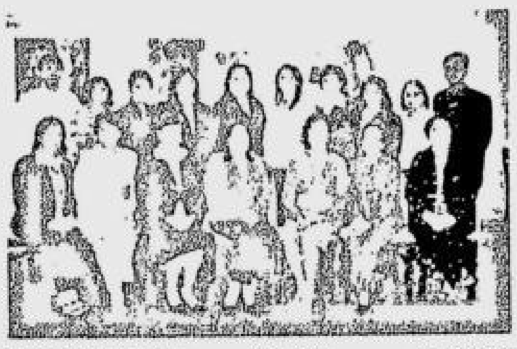
On behalf of the officers of PICPA and ACPACI, and the members of the Convention Committee, I welcome you to this convention. I would also like to thank you all for your unceasing support and enthusiasm for this significant meeting of CPAs in the commerce and industry sector. To all our guests and speakers, our deepest gratitude for gracing this event and for sharing your valuable time and expertise. Your participation will indeed spell the success of this convention.

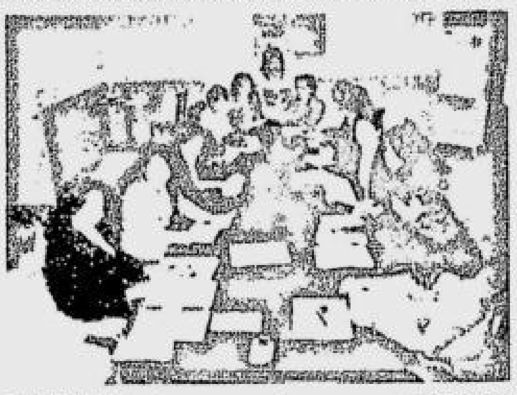
Thank you and God Bless us all!

Ma. Ophelia Camina
MA. OPHELIA L. CAMINA
Chairperson
5th Joint PICPA-ACPACI Convention



ACPACI Induction Ceremonies





The Convention Committee at work

LIFESTYLE
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION

It's fun-tastic!

CLOCKWISE:
Paul Smith Women REUTERS
Matthew Williamson AFP

Put a smile into London fashion

LONDON—LONDON FASHION WEEK HAS always been a showcase for the weird and wacky, but Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson suggested it should also learn to have a laugh.

"I'm all about bringing the smile back into fashion," Thompson told Reuters TV on the red carpet at the headline event of the fourth day of the fashion fest, the gala opening of an exhibition of haute couture. "If you've got a posh frock on you've got to smile. When I've seen pictures of fashion week all the models look so miserable. Not their fault, but they all look a bit like they're in a bit of a sulk."

Thompson, who is one of Britain's best-known actresses and has starred in the "Harry Potter" movies, joined other stars of stage and screen, socialites and business tycoons for the launch of "The Golden Age of Couture: Paris and London 1947-1957."

Kate Moss and Quentin Tarantino, designer John Galliano and musician Prince were among those gathered at London's Victoria & Albert Museum for a fundraising event which charged £10,000 ($20,000) for a table of 10.

The exhibition, which runs from Sept. 22 to Jan. 6, 2008, shows more than 100 dresses dating from the launch of Christian Dior's New Look in Paris in 1947 until the designer's death in 1957, by which time the great couture houses had become global brands.

The couture gowns worn by the event's female guests—many long and beaded in pale, creamy hues—attested to that opulence and contrasted sharply with runway shows where "geek chic" starred.

Models at Paul Smith, one of Britain's bigger brands with an annual turnover of almost $400 million, sported stripes galore with loose jackets and long, baggy skirts and shirts with some tied at the neck in a large bow.

While none of the models looked particularly cheery, they did boast one feature Thompson might enjoy—chunky round spectacles perfect for "Harry Potter."
Reuters

Happy Wintour
Editor in chief of American Vogue Anna Wintour visits backstage before the Jonathan Saunders Spring/Summer 2008 collection show during London Fashion Week. REUTERS

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Must-haves for new fashion season

GUCCI
MICHAEL KORS
HERMES

Apples' Picks

Thank God wide-legged trousers are back in fashion. I'm putting my unforgiving skinny jeans and stovepipe pants to rest, for now!

It's time to suit up. A stylized tuxedo for formal affairs is just what I need.

Super-chic heeled oxfords can dress up the most basic pieces.

MARC JACOBS
IVARLUSKI ASERON
MICHAEL KORS

Jenni Epperson, INQUIRER Fashion columnist and contributing editor

I'm obsessed with Michael Kors' platform shoes. I love the sky-high heels and buttery-soft leather.

Any of Marc Jacobs' bags. There are too many to list down!

I'm hoarding Ivar Aseron's entire collection from Folded & Hung!

(For more on the latest in fashion and shopping, check out www.jenniepperson.com)

DOLCE & GABBANA
BALENCIAGA
VERSACE

Cheche Moral, Lifestyle writer and Sunday Lifestyle Exclusives editorial director

Lace-up ankle booties
Wide, wide belt
Swingy black coat

MISSONI
ROGER VIVIER
JIL SANDER

Millet Arzaga, INQUIRER Fashion stylist

A pair of black ankle boots
Wide waist cinchers
A well-tailored pantsuit

SUGAR BOOTS
CHANEL
CHLOE

Pam Pastor, Saturday Super editor

This season, I intend to purchase:

More Sugar boots—I can't get enough of them. They're colorful, fun and really comfortable.

A nice jacket—I have too many pink jackets, it's scary. I need a nice one in a neutral color.

Dresses—I need them for my double life: I wear dresses for my band's gigs.

(Pam is the vocalist for the band Mozzie. Catch the band in Club Dredd for Top Junk's anniversary on Sept. 26 and at the Pearl Farm, Davao, in October.)

MARC JACOBS
PAUL SMITH

Leica Carpo, Sunday INQUIRER Magazine publisher

Not sure where to use it but I really want one of those extra-thick cable-knit sweaters. I guess it's a case of buying the item and hoping the opportunity to wear it will just happen.

A grown-up cocktail dress—aka not a mini.

Long necklace with vintage charms to funk up my everyday work look.

HERMES
VIKTOR & ROLF

Bianca Consunji, INQUIRER Fashion and 2bU! stylist and contributing writer

I'm in Germany for a few weeks and it's autumn here so I'll update my wardrobe with the following:

Flat suede boots
A wool trench coat
A colorful scarf

Tals Diaz, Saturday Super c

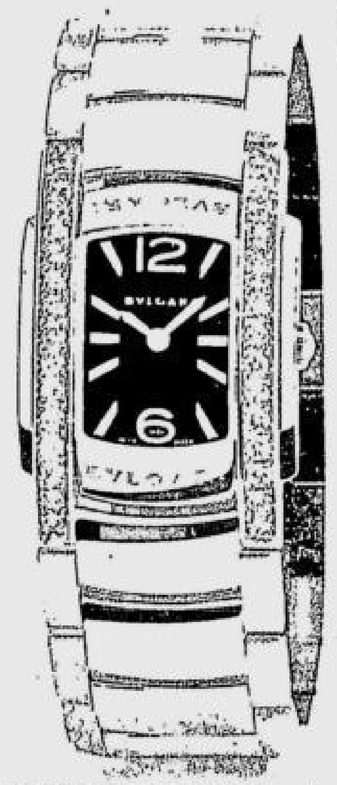
A little white dr with jeans

A giant red rose Flamenco dancers to find anywhere h

A skinny flair pa jeans from my new

When time is really gold

Bulgari offers a new line of women's luxury timepieces



MULTIMILLION-PESO beauty in rose gold

SEMI-STUDDED diamond watch with a rose-cut diamond crown

By Alex Y. Vergara

DESPITE THE PREVALENCE these days of all sorts of clocks and watches incorporated in almost anything—from cell phones to iPods, from laptops to dashboards—the demand for timepieces, particularly of the luxury variety, won't be slowing down anytime soon.

If the well-heeled crowd's enthusiasm for expensive watches at Bulgari's latest dinner party at the Peninsula Manila's Old Manila restaurant is any indication, the luxury business is alive and well in this supposedly developing country.

Mario Katigbak, general manager of Bulgari in the Philippines, used the occasion to launch the Assioma D, an 18-piece collection of women's luxury timepieces made either of yellow, white or rose gold.

True to Bulgari's tradition of offering only the best for its upscale market, the quality of the watches' gold isn't lower than 18 karats. A number of models come with a hint of pavé diamonds, while a certain piece is encrusted all over with the precious stone—from its delicate face to its narrow bracelet. Each piece comes with a rose-cut diamond set in the crown.

"It really depends on your economic status. I don't think demand for high-end watches will ever go down," said Katigbak. "A beautiful, finely crafted watch like the Assioma D, for instance, has become an indispensable accessory. Not only does it complete the look, it gives an understated outfit a certain lift."

The Assioma D's launch (D, in this case, stands for diamonds, diva and donna) comes in the heels of the Italian global brand's launch sometime last year of an earlier batch of Assioma Ds with bigger faces and wider straps.

Daintier, classier

While last year's launch also presented a number of men's watches, this year's affair was exclusively staged for the ladies. The current series is decidedly daintier, classier and (except for the eye-popping diamond-embellished number!) less obtrusive.

Draped in black dresses and sometimes wearing as many as three watches on their wrists and arms, Manila's top models, including Patty Betita and Dubai-based Nicolette Bell, glided from one table to another to give guests a closer glimpse of the pricey merchandise.

While the watches were the stars of the show, a few jewelry pieces that sparkled on Bell and company's earlobes and necks were also presented (and later snapped up on the spot by Bulgari loyalists).

"Like Bulgari's jewelry pieces, its watches are imbued with a classic and timeless quality," said Katigbak. "They're fluid, finely crafted and elegant, yet they're also practical, versatile and user-friendly. They're the kind of watches you keep and hand over to the next generation."

The line, like its predecessors, was entirely developed and crafted at the Bulgari time ateliers in Neuchatel, Switzerland. Each customized Bulgari watch is equipped with the quartz movement and is water resistant up to a depth of 30 meters.

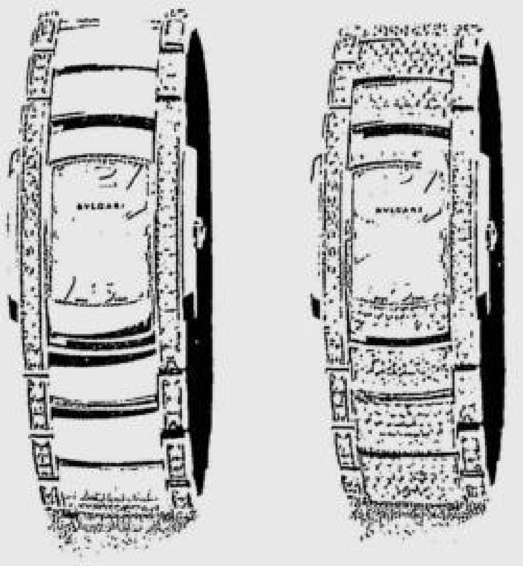
Not that the stylish lady sporting a multimillion-peso Assioma D watch would want to swim in it. But she's certainly welcome to try.

MARINA Benipayo fits the Assioma D's market consisting of seasoned and accomplished women.

BIANCA Valerio goes for thrice the fun.

DUBAI-BASED model Nicolette Bell graces the latest Bulgari show at Old Manila.

RUDY ESPERAS



FROM LEFT, watch that comes in white gold as well; jaw-dropping diamond bracelet that doubles as a timepiece

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amping one's wardrobe depends on one's personality.

e are several women and their peculiar takes on the season

TOPSHOP
TOPSHOP
SHU UEMURA

Tessa Prieto-Valdez, Lifestyle columnist

Beaded top from House of Laurel—perfect for day and night

Jersey dresses from Religioso, Shang Mall—comfy and fashionable

Shoes from Solea, Powerplant Mall—need that added platform-high lift

My false eyelashes from Shu Uemura!

(Watch Tessa in "Celebrity Duets" this Saturday, 6:30 p.m., and vote for a cause! Text: Duets Tessa, send to 367 for Smart/Talk and 2344 for Globe/Touch Mobile.)

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE year again when we start revamping our wardrobes in favor of the latest fashion trends that are sprouting on runways and in fashion magazines around the world. There are an infinite number of trends to choose from, with style.com, wwd.com, Vogue and Bazaar (and INQUIRER Fashion, too, of course!) being some of the best and most current sources.

The problem is it's getting harder to pinpoint which trends we should inject in our wardrobes because, well, there's just too much out there. But the key is quite simple, really. Just choose a trend or particular piece that suits your personality and you can't go wrong.

We've been ardent observers of stylish women for many years now. And we've come to realize that more often than not, well-dressed women have distinct personalities that they manage to express in their manner of dressing, among other things. Stylish women don't necessarily follow trends, but when they do, they know how to edit and pick the ones that suit their personalities best.

Keep in mind, though, that change is always good and a little tweak here and there—in the form of fanciful plumage, sky-high platforms, the latest menswear looks and the like—is exciting and a much welcome surprise.

In the hopes of inspiring you to embark on your very own sartorial adventure, we've asked the fashionistas of Philippine Daily Inquirer to share with you their top three must-haves for this fashion season, starting with my picks:

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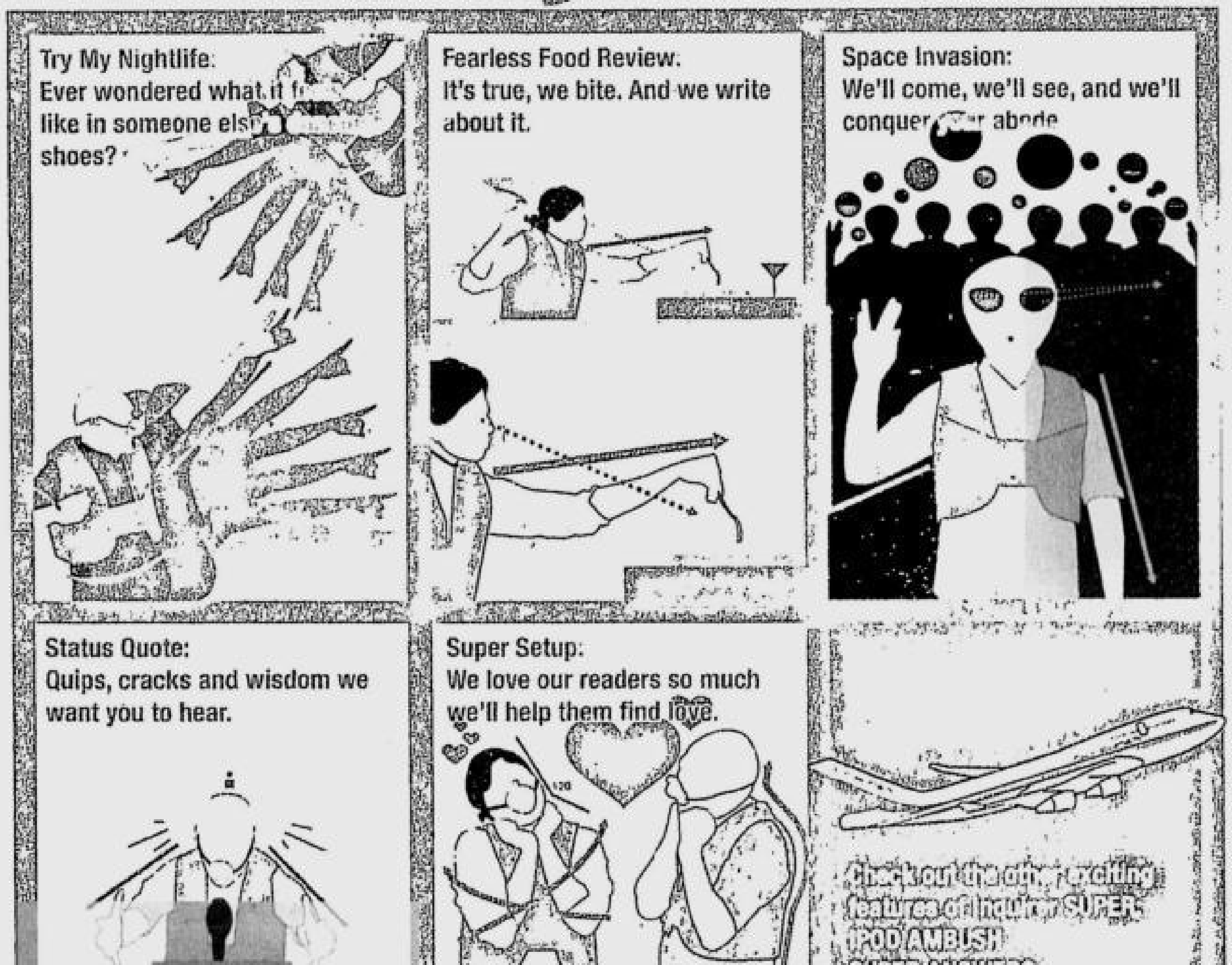

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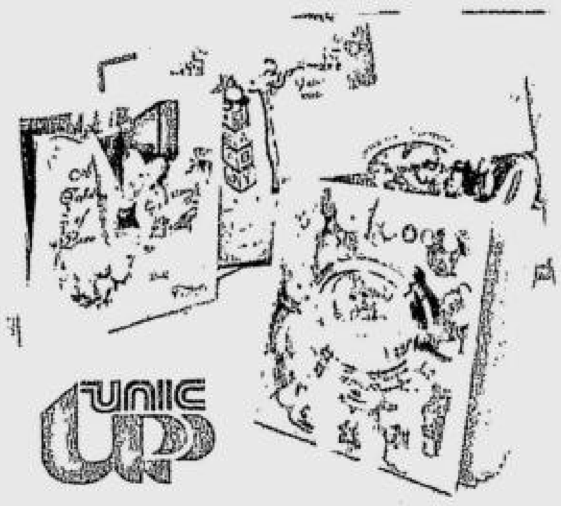

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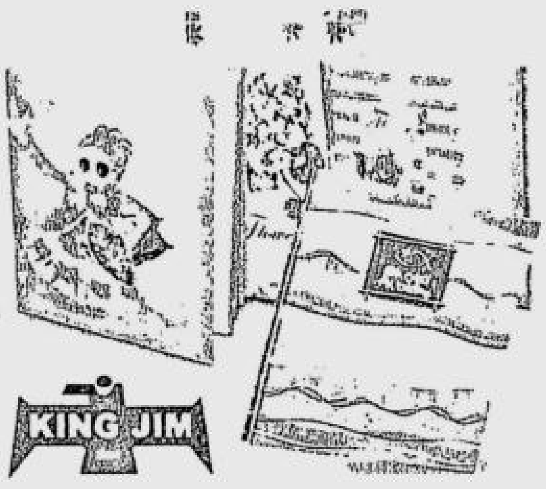

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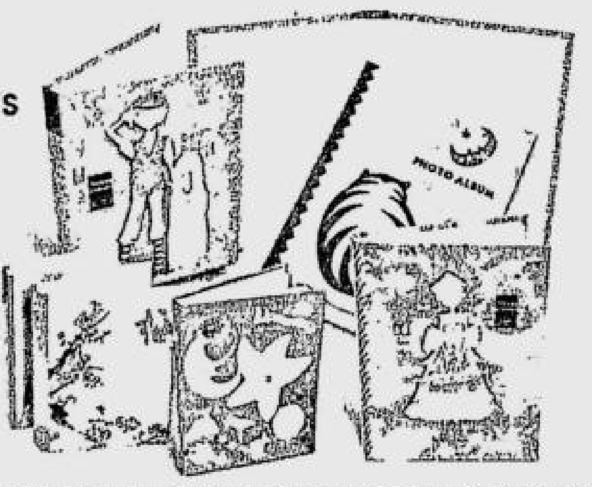

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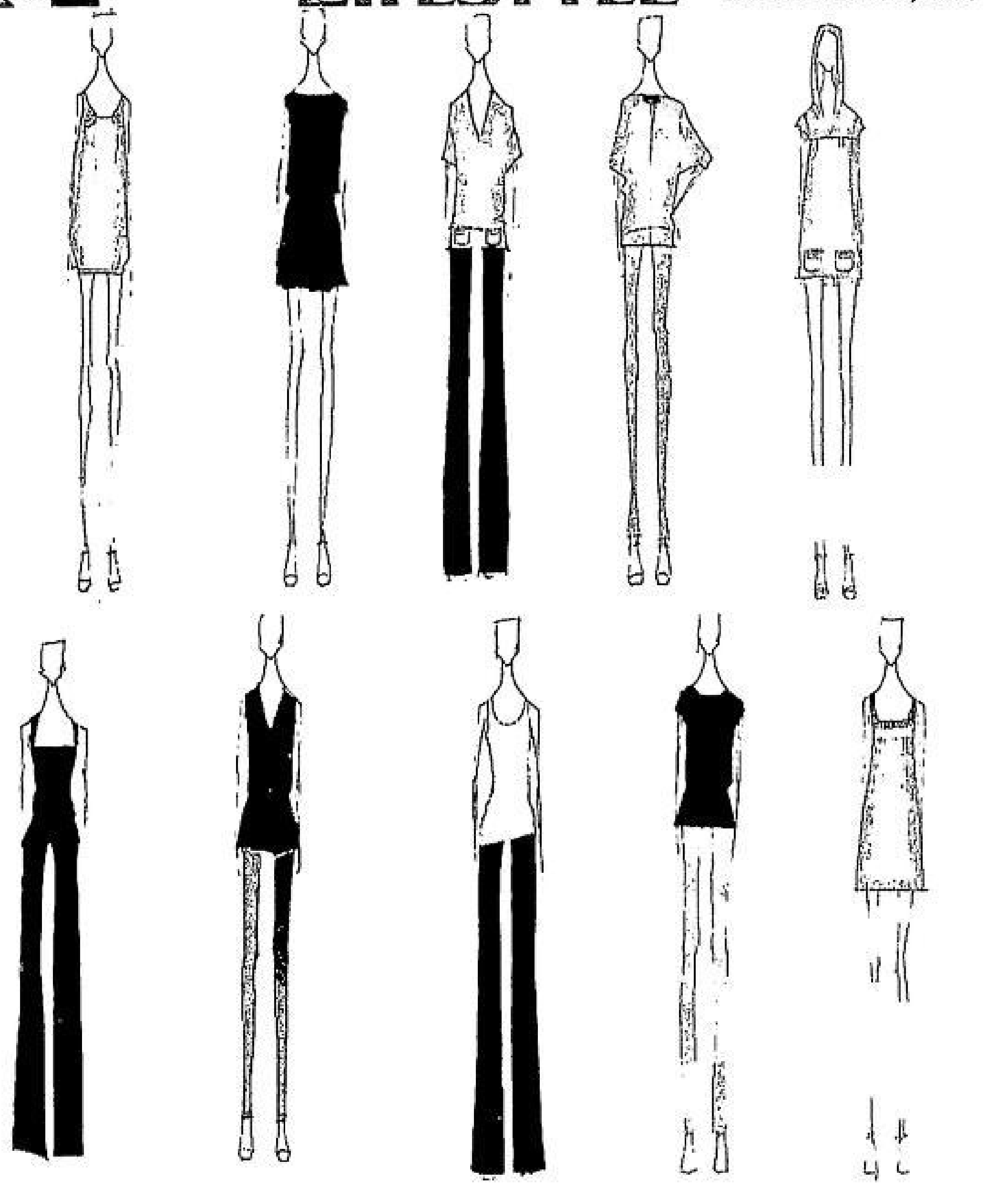

ASERON'S sketches for his Folded & Hung collection

Ivar takes two

FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, designer Ivarluski Aseron is collaborating with Folded & Hung for the holiday 2007 collection. Expect to be transported back in time as the line takes on a medieval theme.

Necklines, plackets and pockets are accentuated by textured black leaves of plastic gems reminiscent of the period. Silhouettes have a desirable soft volume that are cut away from the body. Interesting variations of tops in metallic jersey give a fleeting impression of armor. Pants, either slim or cut wide at the leg, come in satinized stretched twill or denim. Black is a major palette of the collection along with other bright tones of magenta, mustard, dove gray and teal. The entire collection is still very feminine and sexy but at the same time modern with a casual gorgeous, fresh look.

According to Aseron, when he designed the collection, he visualized the typical F&H woman who's fashionable, confident, sexy yet practical. He wanted the clothes to be more versatile and relaxed that anyone who buys the collection can mix and match with any of their existing pieces.

Watch out for Ivar Aseron's new inspirations this coming November at Folded & Hung stores.

FVSHION BUZZ
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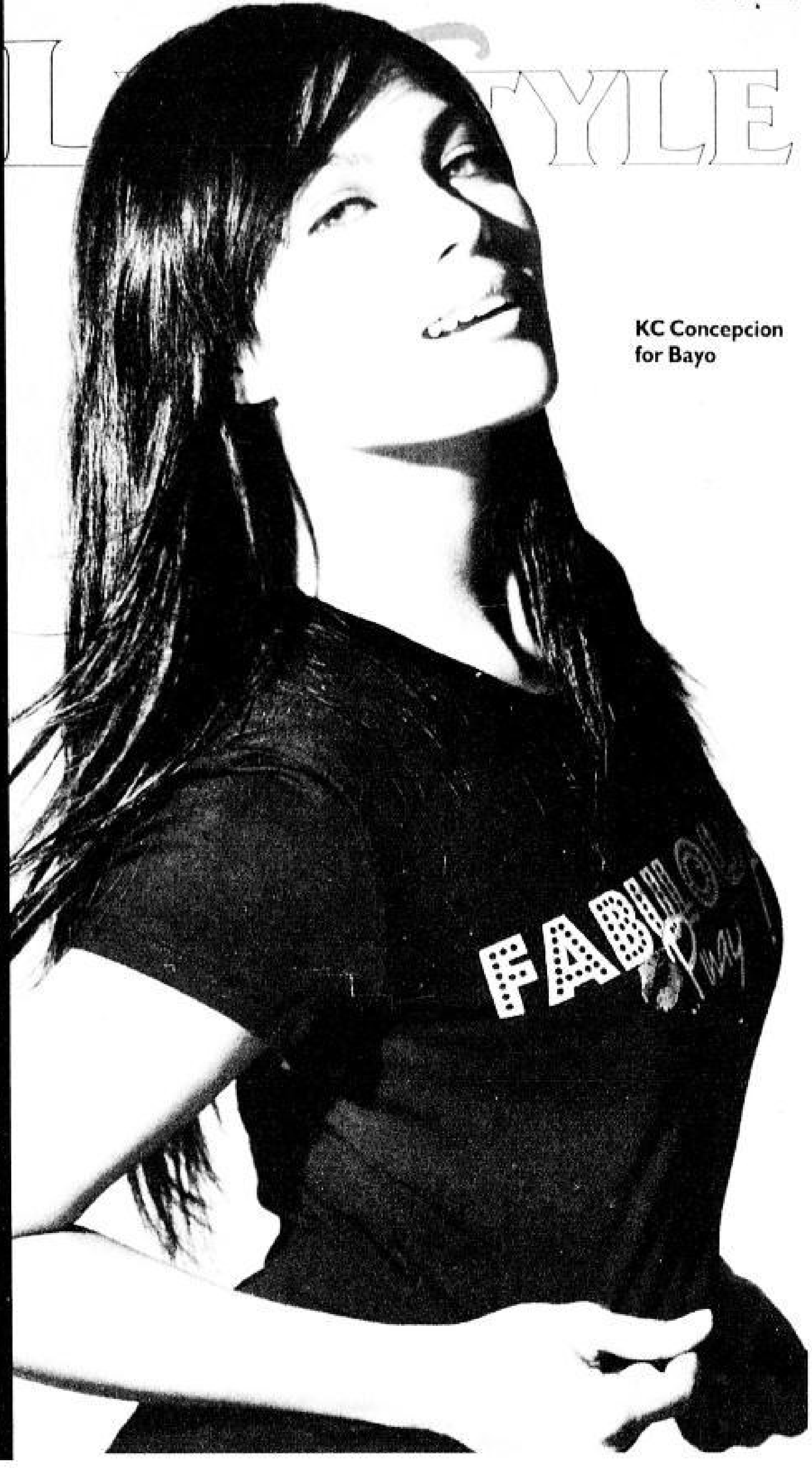
HELLO! Coated

LIFESTYLE

FASHION



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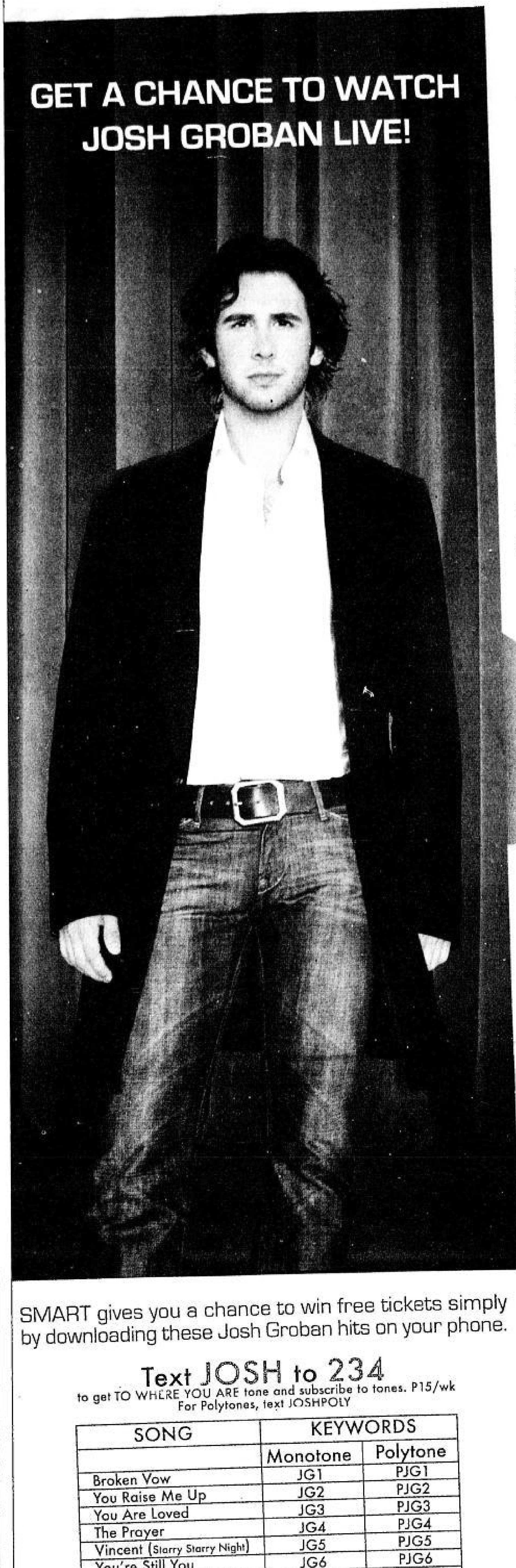

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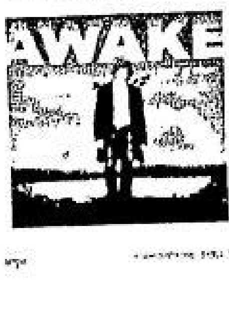

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FASHION EXCLUSIVE

New face for young fashion staple

If there is one star that is shining the brightest of all in our celebritysphere, it is KC Concepcion

Jenni Epperson

JUST WATCHING HER WALK into a room, you know that she was born under an "it" constellation. She immediately illuminates a place with her mere presence. And it goes way beyond simply having designer genes.

KC has proven time and again to have come into her own with her firebrand passion, artistry, intelligence and strong character, all of which complement her striking looks perfectly.

KC symbolizes the ideal in today's era when we are in dire need of depth behind the pomp and circumstance of glam and image. She is proof that a role model can have both style and substance.

And this is what makes her the perfect choice as the new, fresh face of Bayo.

KC is the progressive Filipino fashion label's anointed one. She upholds Bayo's tradition of fronting world-class Filipinas like Lea Salonga to represent the brand. KC now joins the ranks of Bayo's Filipino-and-proud family.

What's admirable about Bayo is it has always showcased exemplary and beautiful Filipinas. Bayo has redefined the global Pinay!

Vibrant and young KC will be showing different aspects of her personality in sporting Bayo's latest merchandise mix tagged as the Trendy, Classic and Young collections.

It is like having different women with different personas in the store. That's because KC is known to be a chameleon in expressing her style. She is adventurous with her fashion moods. One day, she can be her young and fun-loving self, then a chic Parisian fashionista the next, then transform again into a classic preppy.

KC always weaves her own style and perspective into what she wears. In fact, while working with her and Mark Nicdao for the Bayo shoot, I notice that she gives a fresh perspective even to the more conservative pieces because of her inner coolness and innate style. With some creative styling and layering, the overall look becomes alive and unique.

The Trendy and Young lines of Bayo will be offering a holiday collection that promises to spice up the yearend season wardrobe.

For the Young collection, expect Japanese street wear-inspired tees, statement tees, star printed hoodies and pinafores, and graphic-printed sleeveless tunic tees. Also look out for oversized blouses and long tops in a variety of colors. You can get playful with baby-doll silhouettes with colorful graphics.

For Bayo's Trendy line that caters to young, working women, expect classic tailored pieces like shirtdresses, wide-leg pants and tailored shorts. Details include ruching and ruffles on tops accessorized with fabric belt.

Also look out for stripes and exciting prints in an array of colors. By the holiday season, expect feminine touches like bubble, lantern and puff sleeves, with fabric combinations like satin or lace and rayon. Tweed fabric and coats make for a winter-wonderland style—even if it's just indoor chill from air-conditioning!

Just like all the products she endorses, KC made sure she studied and got to know Bayo on a deeper level to see what it was all about before she gave her nod. In fact, she wanted to know how Bayo helped out on a national level—how it helped the less fortunate. It is yet another dimension of KC, as someone with a big heart to give, to make sure that what she endorses share her similar passions.

Her enduring charm and warmth was so apparent during Bayo's production shoot. KC will be officially launched as Bayo's new endorser on Oct. 25 with a fashion show at the Glorietta Activity Center, culminating with a grand fashion event.

Watch out for KC soon as the celebrity style chameleon. Is there anything that she can't do? Her star can only shine brighter.

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

HOT and spicy

Photography Mark Nicdao of Wildbunch
Styling Jenni Epperson
Hair and makeup Juan Sarte
Clothes and accessories Bayo

THE GRADUATE

GRAY'S anatomy

SPORTACULAR!

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**WHAT KIND C
usually go for?**
I'm usually a
girl, but these da
sexy but laid-bac
ing down color c
only three color
with interesting
(like Modi).
What's your f
I like wearing
and gray. Low-
with cuts that sh
**Describe what
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aviator sunglass
black skinny jean
Bonding days
with distressed
dewy makeup w
eye liner
Family time:
Formal occas
designers. And
worn sparingly
Fashionista e
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romantic feel f
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Staying at h
dresses and silk
What's your t
My Cartier
watch.
**What's in yo
bag?**
Pink Shu
Cleansing Oil, S
box O-Glow f
cheeks, Virgin
conut Oil with M
**Whose style i
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Gwen Stef
Katharine He
burn
**What are you
latest clothin
must-haves?**
Anya Hindmarch "I'm Not a Plastic Bag" canvas tote;
Bayo Cotton
Shirt Dresses! (Almost like you wanna sleep in it! But perfect for *barkada*
bash!)
**How do you
put an outfit together?**
I have no rules
**Why do you
dressing up?**
'Cause I like b
girl!
**What made
decide to end
Bayo?**
It's easy to
swer that ques
twice about th
lots of fun, love
understands ho
body.
**If there is; w
piece?**
The white,
shirt. It's so sexy
fect as a style ca
fortless chic. So

Wa

**KC talks abo
and shares h
experience a
that she clai
into a strong
Filipina. Th**

SHION Q & A

F CLOTHES DO YOU

T-shirt and jeans kind of
s I like to wear heels and
k dresses. I also like ton-
mbinations by limiting to
, and spicing up outfits
Filipino-inspired pieces

vorite color and cut?
nerald-green, violet, red
vaist trousers, and tops
w my collar bones!
you wear on the follow-

: Red Chloe leather-trim
s, T-shirt with graphics,
and buckled flats
with girl friends: Dress
nedium-size leather bag,
th rosy cheeks and black

each wear :)
ons: Dresses by Filipino
ny *lola*'s classic jewels,

ents: I don't mind splurg-
out here, but I never like
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ome. day: Long cotton
andanas.
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Santos-Dumont

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ion! And I didn't think
endorsement—Bayo is
the Filipina and really
w to dress a woman's

at's your favorite Bayo

oversized, button-down
and understated, so per-
vas because for me it's ef-
nice with a thin colored

BAYO is all about fun and function.

belt, classic men's watch or men's skinny tie.

What do you think of Bayo as a brand?

I respect and admire that those at Bayo know who they are, who wears the clothes, and which direction to take at any given time. They are definite about who they cater to and what they want to offer to them.

FABULOUS Pinay

PINAY panache

What are your favorites?

Filipino:

dish: Vegetable *kare-kare* with shrimp *bagoong*!

Junk food: Spicy tamarind

Dessert: *ube halaya*!

Book/author: I don't know yet... still looking. :)

Song: "Limang Dipang Tao" by Ryan Cayabyab

Singer: Lea Salonga; Joey Ayala

Actor/actress: Jodi Sta. Maria, Piolo Pascual, Sharon Cuneta

Movie: "Kisapmata" and... "Cute ng Ina Mo!"

International:

Dish: French tossed salad with goat cheese on toast and honey on top

Junk food: Lays Barbecue Chips

Dessert: Tiramisu

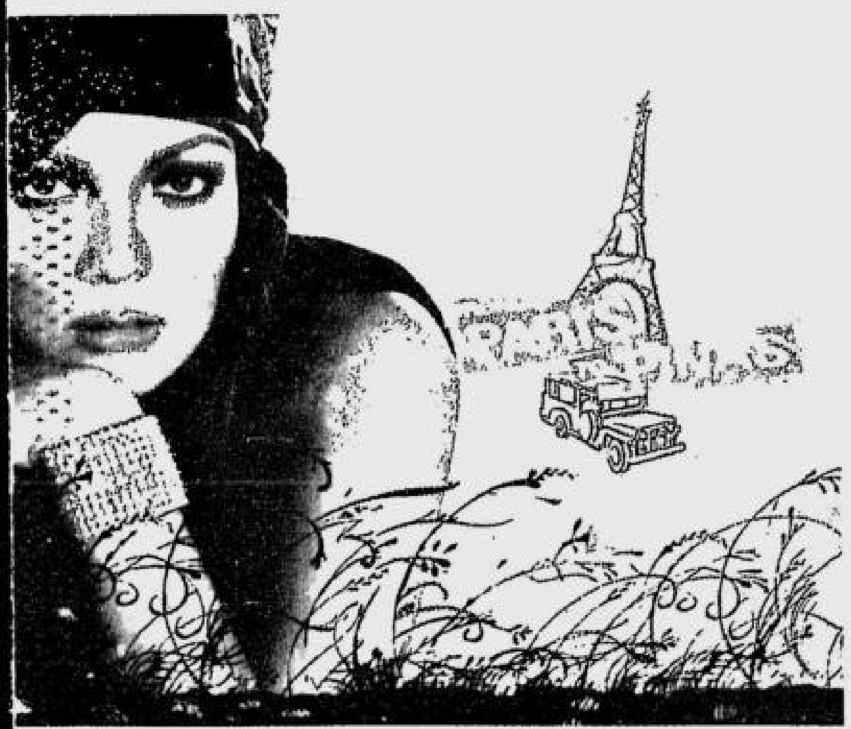
Book/author: "Eleven Minutes" by Paulo Coelho

Song: Changes all the time :)

Singer: Ben Harper, still... Mariah Carey

Actor/actress: Audrey Tautou, Johnny Depp, Jennifer Garner

Movie: "Moulin Rouge"; "Alias," the series



tch! KC's Paris diary

at her life in Paris
er four-year
s a student there
ms has molded her
er and independent
s is KC—an
ordinary person in the extraordinary city she has fallen in love with—Paris. 'KC from Paris to Pinas,' an ABS-CBN special, runs on Sept. 23, 10:30 p.m.

acer

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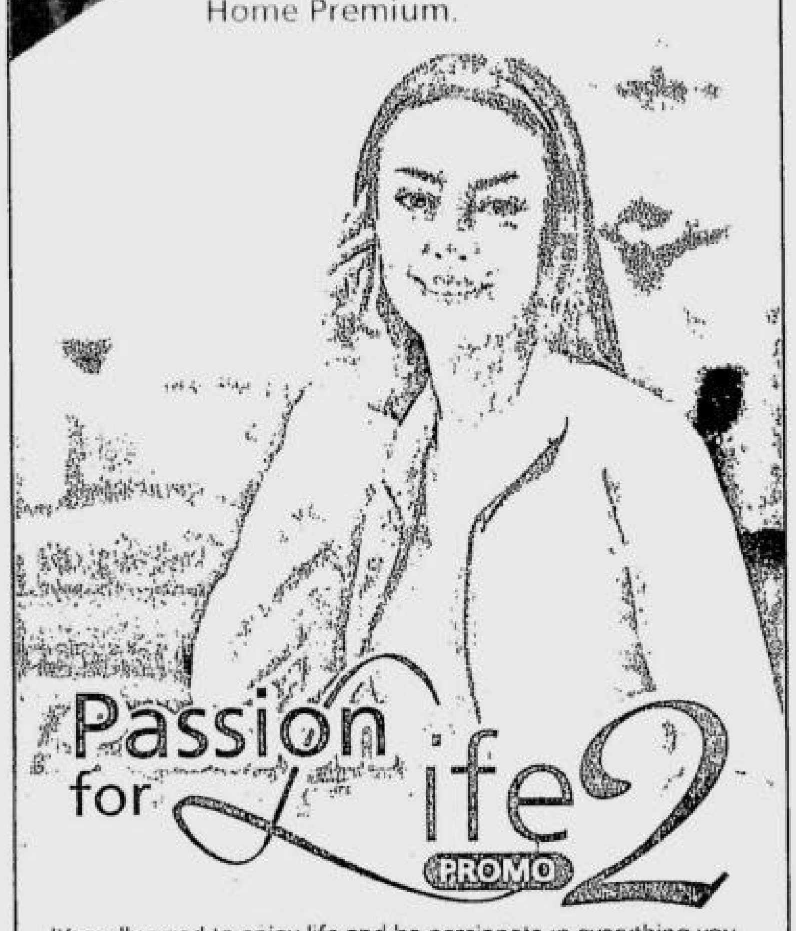

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September 11
Analiza P. Macasiray
Dalig, Antipolo City
September 12
Marilou B. Estrella
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September 14
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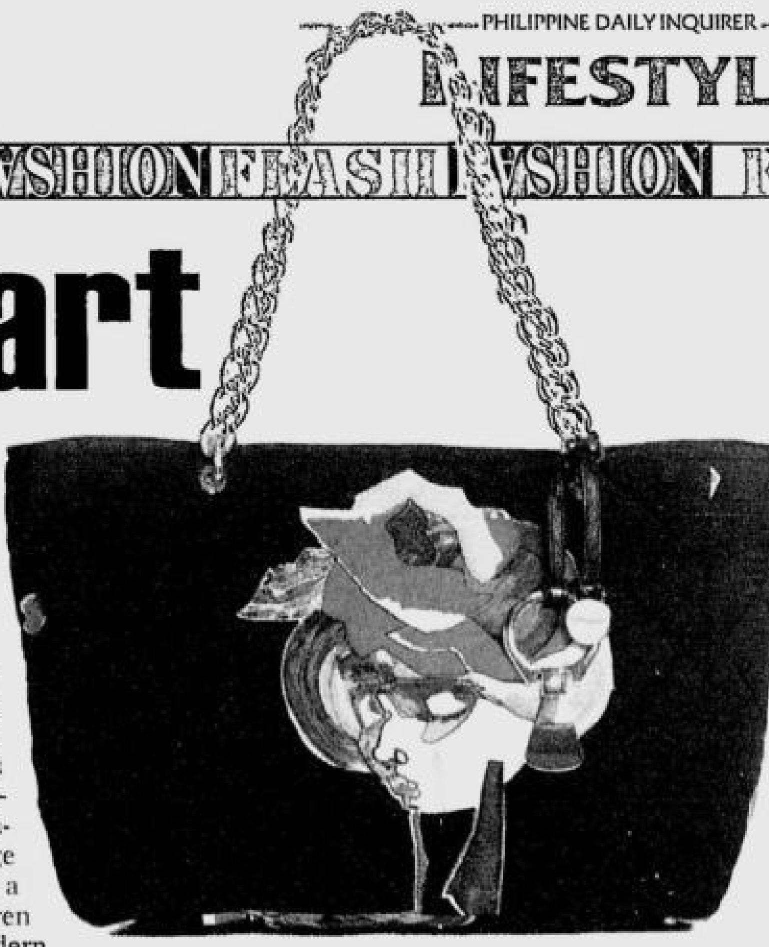
FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION

Pop-up art

LUXURY ENGLISH LABEL Mulberry and acclaimed artist Julie Verhoeven have teamed up to bring an injection of feminine, colorful fun to the streets of London.

London Fashion Week recently saw the official launch of a collaboration between the two as a unique Mulberry for Julie "pop-up" shop, located at 199 Westbourne Grove, makes a short-lived appearance until the close of the Frieze Art Fair on Oct. 16.

A sultry portrait and thorny rose illustration is transposed onto a range of premium items, from cute T-shirts to decadent voluminous silk shirt dresses. Bags, scarves and a quirky giant, ring-pull key ring complete a niche range of items that put a playful Verhoeven spin on some modern Mulberry classics.



MULBERRY bag by Julie Verhoeven

Rugged chic

"MANNEQUINS COME TO LIFE," the second in a series of Oxygen fashion shows, was recently held at its flagship store in Ayala TriNoma.

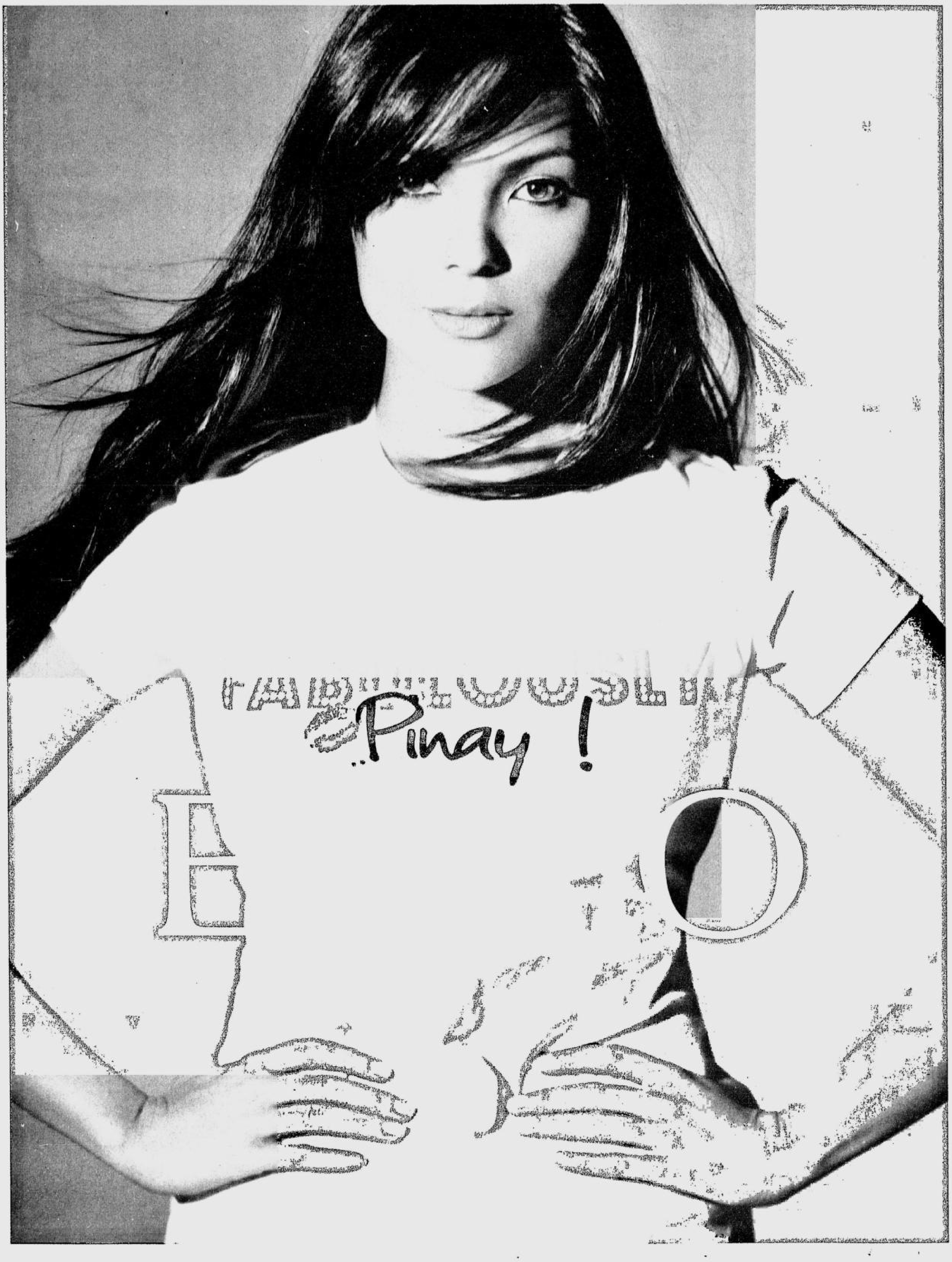
Led by celebrity endorsers Derek Ramsay and Karel Marquez, models took to the runway to debut Oxygen's newest line of hip gimmick wear: the Low Riders collection. A fusion of the post-punk aesthetic of late 1970s New York and the rock 'n' roll vibe of the 1950s, the Low Riders collection comprises several trendy lines.

The Western Fusion line has plaids and stripes in earth colors with mock layering and yoke detailing. The Dream Factory line, with hooded tees and new silhouettes with shirring, ruffles and pin-tucked details, came with edgy mailman's bags and accessories.

The Futurists line, meanwhile, offered silver foil-print wings jazzing up basic tees and tanks, while touches of shine gleamed on cuts with metallic prints, satin trims, lurex thread accents and oversized grommets.

Indeed, the event showcased fresh and updated silhouettes that go well with any Oxygen Blueprint jeans.

FASHION breathes Oxygen.



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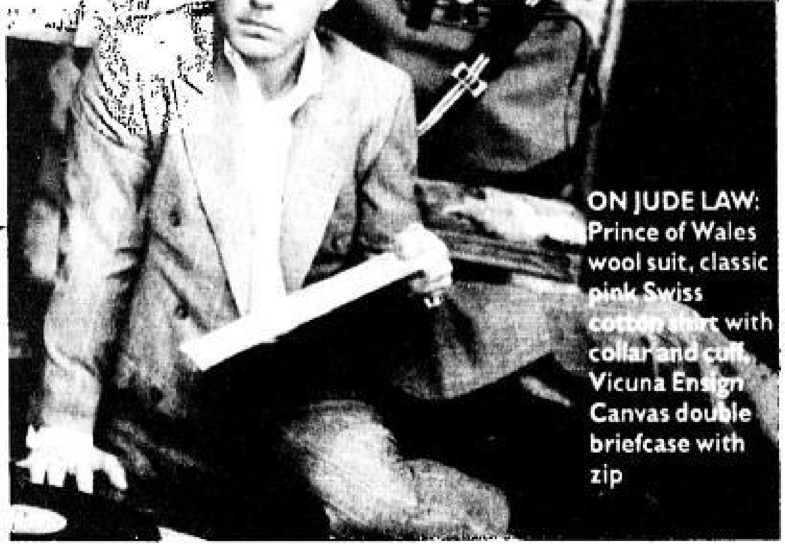
LIFESTYLE



ON JUDE LAW: Prince of Wales wool suit, classic pink Swiss cotton shirt with collar and cuff, Vicuna Ensign Canvas double briefcase with zip

Manly indulgences

British luxury brand Dunhill satisfies the modern male's fascination for both the sleek and the edgy

By Adrian Carlo Velasco
Contributor

EVEN BEFORE WORKING FOR the Dunhill brand, Tim King was already its loyal patron. In fact, he still remembers the first time he purchased a Dunhill item. "After 20 years, I still have that formal leather belt I bought," he says.

Today, King is managing director for North Asia and travel retail at Richemont Luxury Asia Pacific Ltd., which owns Dunhill.

"I like that I'm working for products that I use," he adds. He takes pride in the classic elegance the luxury label maintains in men's wear, leather goods, writing instruments and other accessories. But, he adds, what makes Dunhill more interesting for the man of today is the label's contemporary takes on iconic styles.

Founded by Alfred Dunhill from out of his father's saddlery and at first focused only on car enhancement goods, the UK brand currently offers over 3,500 items of luxury clothing and accessories in more than 20 stores, including new emporiums at Namiki Dori in Tokyo, on 5th Avenue in New York and the recently renovated flagship on Jermyn Street, London.

In Makati, the Dunhill concept store at Rustan's, appeals to today's stylish men with its sleek interiors. The store houses ready-to-wear and leather goods that keep Dunhill's tradition in craftsmanship alive.

For the urban Manileño, Dunhill has unveiled an impressive jeans collection for the first time. The jeans, which go well with a suit jacket, are made of authentic Japanese selvedge denim.

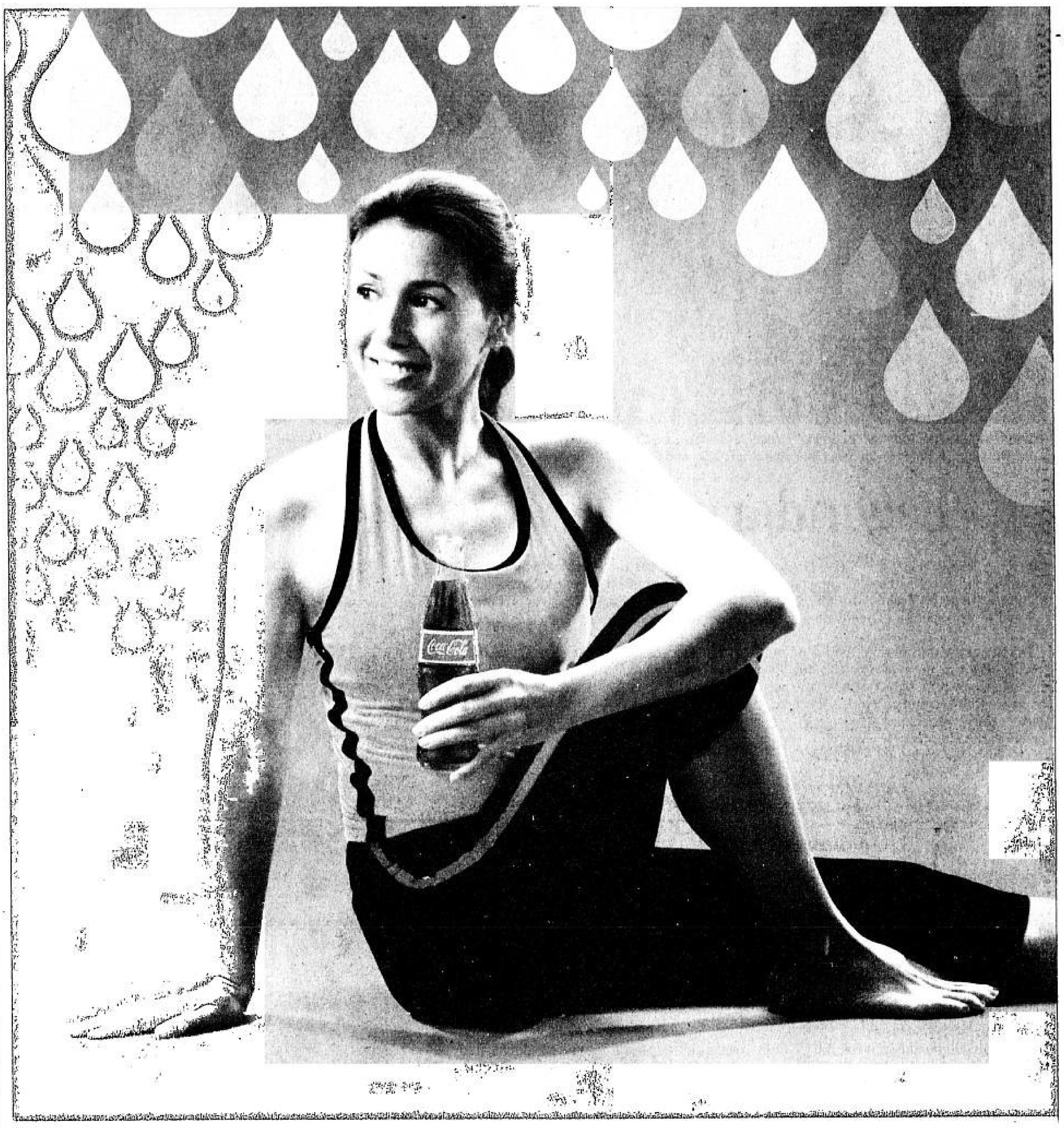
Leather country

"Leather is popular among Filipinos," King says as he displays a messenger bag with a distinctive striped strap, a new arrival that is part of the latest d-eight CT col-

MANLY/ E3

DARK indigo straight leg selvedge denim jeans

SENTRYMAN COLLECTION. Limited-edition fountain pen with Swarovski crystal fabric and diamonds, and Diamond Pattern platinum plated cufflinks



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KINNY Salas with Gilbert and Georgia Remulla

MAC LUBACZEWSKI, Helena Belmonte and Paolo Araneta

MALU Gamboa and Rep. Carissa Coscolluela

LONGTIME Kiehl's lovers Louie Locsin and Bobby Cuenca

CRISTINA Garcia and good pal Chut Cuerva

WINNING team behind Kiehl's coming to *Manille*: Kiehl's Cary Co, Globe's Cynthia Mangahas, Kiehl regional manager Tina Tinio, Globe's Coco Domingo, Kiehl Phils. product manager Sheena Dy and Globe's MJ Hyndman

L'OREAL Phils.' Luc-Olivier Marquet, Nancy Castiglione, Bubbles Paraiso and handsome Asean deputy GM for L'Oreal Adam Hamzah

PREMIER Wines' Spencer Ty, who generously provided the evening's yummy cocktails, with Shu Uemura's Tessa Dragon

JACKIE Cohen-Antonio and brother-in-law Jigger Antonio

Legendary US grooming brand coming to town

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

KIEHL'S, TOGETHER WITH GLOBE, recently held the Kiehl's Coming Soon to Manila event at the Greenbelt 3 lobby.

Kiehl's will open in Greenbelt 5 next month.

In spite of the tons of rain that fell on our town, there was an awesome turnout. Everybody who was anybody came to the party, wearing red, white and blue, in keeping with the Americana theme of the affair.

The food was typically American: yummy party food like hotdogs, popcorn and the to-die-for Häagen-Dazs ice cream, mmm.

On top of learning about Kiehl's heritage, brand values and star products, guests received personalized consultations from Kiehl's rah! rah! team.

Spotted orchestrating the event were regional manager **Tina Tinio**; Kiehl's Philippines team of **Sheena Dy** and **Cary Co**; and Globe team of **Coco Domingo** and **Cynthia Mangahas**.

Seen enjoying the night were Shu Uemura's **Tessa Dragon, Mary Ann Tinio, Louie Locsin**, Rep. **Carissa Coscolluela, Leica Carpo, Malu Gamboa** of the excellent Cirkulo, plus loads of others of the usual partying pack.

Watch out, *Manille*! Kiehl's is coming to Manila, at last!

Egypt gig

It was a glorious walk through ancient exotic Egypt, dahlings, when the Egyptian Embassy celebrated the 55th anniversary of the National Day of Egypt, with an awesome exhibit of Egyptian history at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza. The showcase was a journey in lights, sights, sounds and divine tastes across Egyptian civilization.

The bilateral relations between Egypt and the Philippines are among the longest since both countries commemorated 60 years of diplomatic ties in November 2006. The embassy jetted in replicas of the deities of ancient Egypt, *palanggas*.

The newly appointed Egyptian ambassador **Salwa Moufid Kamel Magarious** welcomed tons of invitees to the Grand Plaza ballroom, which had been made up to echo the ancient temples of Upper Egypt.

Projected on giant screens were pyramids of Giza; Egyptian antiques; and various facets of Egyptian art, culture and tourism, such as the fantastic Nile cruises, which I had done a couple of years ago. There were also images of the fabulous opera Aida and the cityscape of bustling Cairo.

One felt being transported to ancient times as one watched images of the goddess Isis, god Osiris, god Horus, the Cat Goddess, the gold mask of the King Tutankhamun, the full-body statue of King Tut, goddess Selket, the gilded bust of Queen Nefertiti and the unfinished head of Queen Nefertiti, no less.

A feast for pharaohs was set amid the hotel's lush palm trees, which made the whole setup seem like an oasis in the Nile River. An array of exquisite Egyptian delicacies alongside a global fusion of various cuisine was prepared by the superb international culinary team of Sofitel Philippine Plaza. Authentic Egyptian ingredients were flown in especially for the Arabian dishes.

Diplomats, Egyptian nationals and our town's business hotshots were absolutely delighted after sampling the Egyptian cuisine, which they drowned in excellent French wine and capped with luscious Egyptian pastries of Baklawa and Om-ali, *palanggas*.

Aprés the fantastic dinner, Foreign Undersecretary **Franklin Ebdalin** offered a toast of the bubbly to the Egyptian envoy. Needless to say, *palanggas*, it was totally an awesome feeling that night walking through Egypt's best attractions, however vicariously.

French fries, er, ties

The Republics of the Philippines and France celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations recently, dahlings.

The Treaty of Amity forging the diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed by Vice President **Elpidio Quirino** and French Foreign Minister **Georges Bidault** on June 26, 1947, in Paris.

Giving a brief history of Philippine-French relations, French Ambassador **Gerard Chesnel** emphasized that "when **Ferdinand Magellan's** expedition reached the Philippines in 1521, 18 of his crew were French. Some of them were called Petit Jean, Jean de France, Master Jacques (a chief gunner) and Simon de la Rochelle.

"Needless to say, all the 18 French sailors never went back to France," the envoy said. "Meaning—they fell in love with our country, married Filipinos and stayed on." The remark brought laughter and applause from the audience that attended the symposium at Ateneo de Manila University.

Representatives from Assumption College, St. Paul de Chartres and De La Salle University recalled their institutions' French origins and contributions to education in the Philippines.

Descendants of Filipino families with French ancestry such as the Gastons, Dreyfuses, Kahns and Guerreros recounted how their French forefathers integrated with Filipinos and how their families are today.

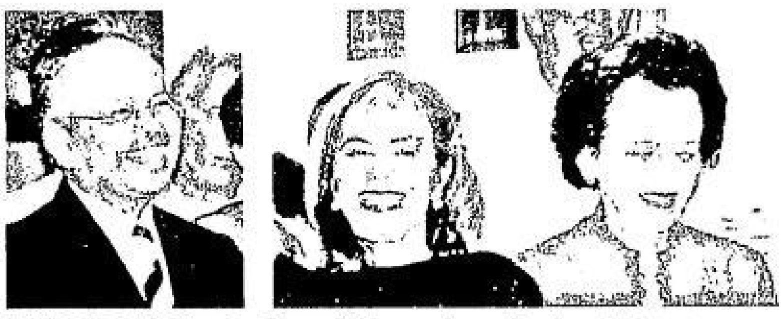
On the other hand, famous Filipinos in France were tackled by National Historical Institute chair **Ambeth Ocampo** and by **Mara Pardo de Tavera**.

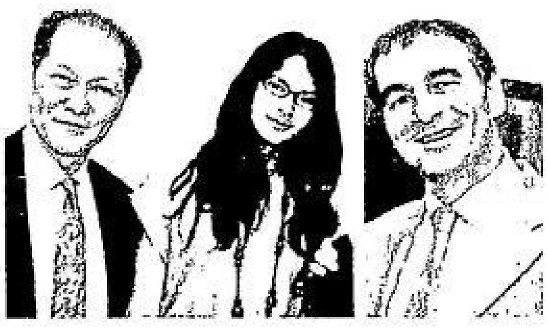
After all that *tres* interesting forum, a fun reception followed at Ambassador Chesnel's residence in posh North Forbes Park, dahlings.

INQUIRER columnist Augusto Villalon, Ateneo de Manila University international programs consultant Evelyn Soriano, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel, Unesco Commissioner Virginia Moreno and former Sen. Leticia Shahani

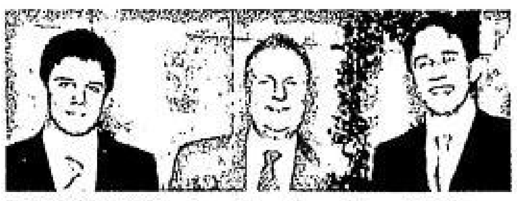
FRENCH Embassy's coordinator for French studies Alix Lavaud; Ateneo's assistant to the academic vice president for international programs' Glenn de Leon; and French Press Attaché Carolle Lucas

NCCA Deputy Executive Director Emilie Tiongco; Alliance Française de Manille VP Deanna Ongpin-Recto; NCCA and National Historical Institute Chair and INQUIRER columnist Ambeth Ocampo; and INQUIRER Editorial Consultant Amando Doronila


RETIRED Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia Carrion and Beth Day Romulo


ALLIANCE Française de Manille president Bernardo Sim, Alexandra d'Aboville and European Chamber of Commerce president Hubert d' Aboville

SWISS Ambassador Peter Sutter and Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission Madame Irene Flückiger, with EU Ambassador Alistair Mac Donald


SOFITEL Philippine Plaza's assistant F&B manager Quentin Renard, Austrian Trade Commissioner Walter A. Höfle and BMW president Andreas Biehler

NEWLY appointed Egyptian Ambassador Salwa Moufid Kamel Magarious (third from right); Saudi Arabian Counselor Mohammed Nabil Mohammed Ali A. Bokharee; Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mohammed Wali; Sofitel Philippine Plaza's team led by marketing director Rose Libongco, with executive assistant manager Mo Ihsan, assistant events director Cielo Ortega and PR officer Yasmine Hidalgo

OFFICE of Muslim Affairs' Scheherazade Amilbangsa, Egyptian Embassy Counselor Yasser El-Shawaf, Madame Rania El Khawanky and French Embassy's Patrick Launay

ALLIANÇE Française director Olivier Dintinger

CANADIAN Embassy's Counselor Steven Rheault-Kihara

UAE Ambassador Mohammed Ebrahim Aljowaid, South Korean Ambassador Hong Jong-Ki, Pakistani Ambassador Muhammad Naeem Khan and Kuwaiti Ambassador Bader Nasser Ali-Al-Houti

Manly . . .

From page E1

lection. The line is Dunhill's way of meeting the needs of the elegantly practical consumer.

Another highlight of the new leather set is the d-eight CT Holdall, which can accommodate a man's most valued possessions—from a laptop to paper work to his gym clothes. The bag has all the practical features, such as a removable shoulder strap, a large bag opening, a back panel for trolley attachment and asymmetric external zip pockets.

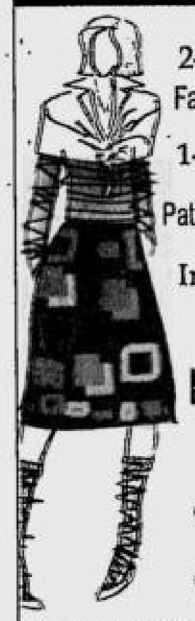
According to King, Dunhill recently launched new wallet designs that cater to the younger crowd. Traditionally, Dunhill leather goods do not have any form of branding. The new collection, however, uses a modern version of the "d" logo.

"We have a very wide range of small leather goods. For instance, we have around four different wallets of a certain design. Dunhill's the place to go for wallets," he adds.

Opulent must-haves

It's also the best place to go for gifts. As a matter of fact, 30-percent of Dunhill shoppers are women who buy memorable items

MANLY/E4



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– Authentic customer statement, 22 March 2007
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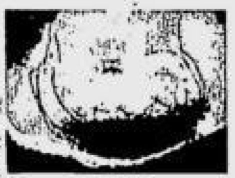

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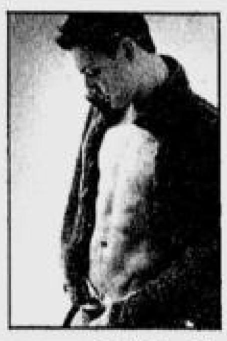

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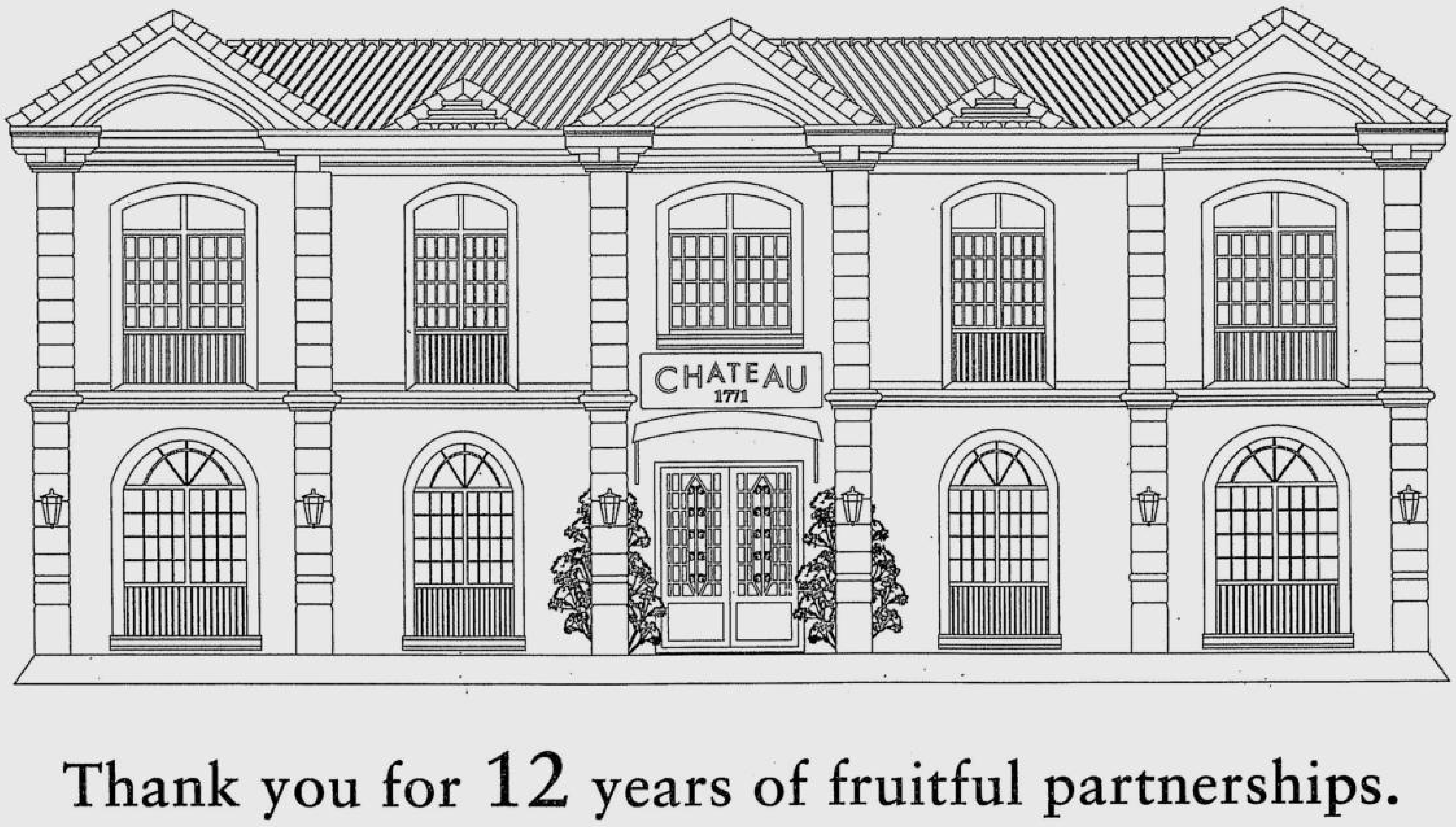

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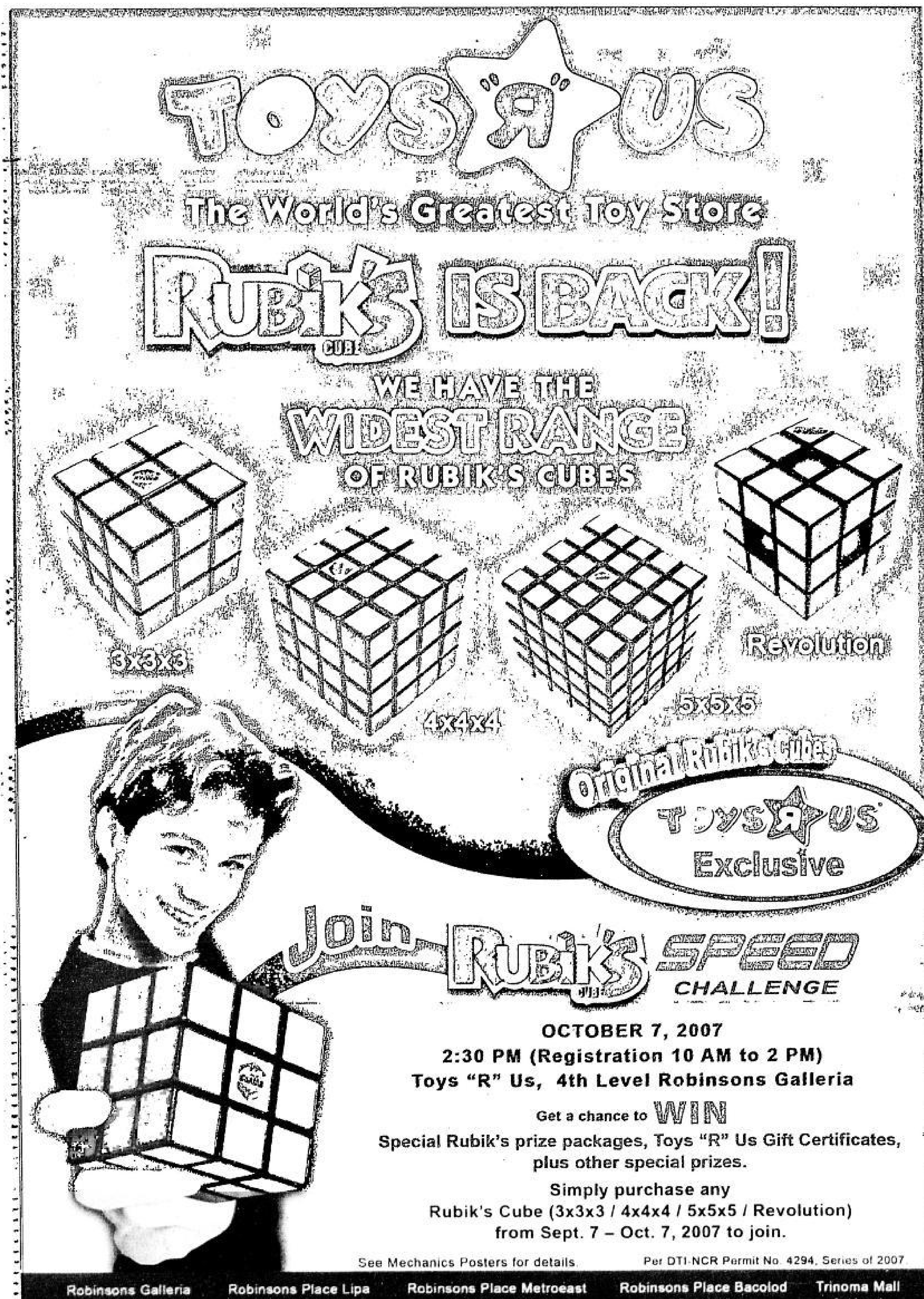

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DUNHILL Mid-grey super 110's wool suit, white Swiss cotton shirt, black silk tie with crown motifs, and tradition double document case

D-EIGHT CT double zip briefcase

Manly . . .

From page E3

for men close to their hearts.

The perfect present for corporate executives would have to come from the Sentryman collection—an irresistibly sleek range of accessories.

Inspired by the iconic flat tops of British pillow boxes, the Sentryman pen's cap is the highlight of the new collection that includes fountain pens, ballpoints, roller balls and pencils. The limited edition "after dark" reincarnation, on the other hand, is a pen wrapped in rare Swarovski crystal fabric with a 112-white-diamond-embedded cap.

The Sentryman line also consists of cufflinks in black resin, mother of pearl and white metal, a billfold wallet and a seven-hook key case.

Rethinking the classics

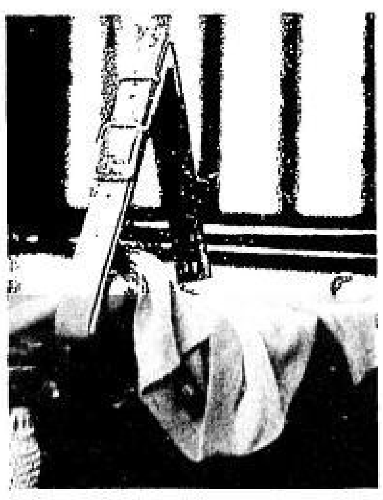
When it comes to fashion, King says, men in the Philippines tend to be pretty conservative. Fortunately, his brand complements Filipinos' classic taste.

Dunhill recently introduced the iconic St. James suit with a leaner silhouette, plus two new narrow ensembles, namely Mayfair and Bespoke. Equally classic are the jackets, overcoats and outerwear appeal to the growing market of global citizens, who experience different weathers and seasons.

Coming from the shirt line are two revised tees. The "classic fit" is a relaxed cotton wear while the "engineered fit" is inspired by the original Motorities shirt with a narrower and shorter cut.

Dunhill adds modern twists to iconic British styles like the Motorities. In the latest Dunhill London catalog, actor Jude Law models a revised 1930s chauffer jacket. It's a tribute to the Edwardian Era that witnessed the height of men's fashion.

According to King, Law and Dunhill are a perfect match. The movie star has a good mix of classic British charm and edginess. "He appeals to the ladies, but doesn't put off men," says King.



MOTORITIES Khaki canvas belt and Khaki Mongolian cashmere V-neck sweater

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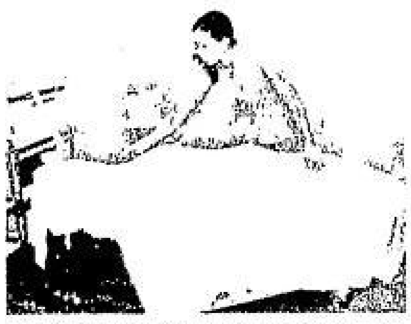
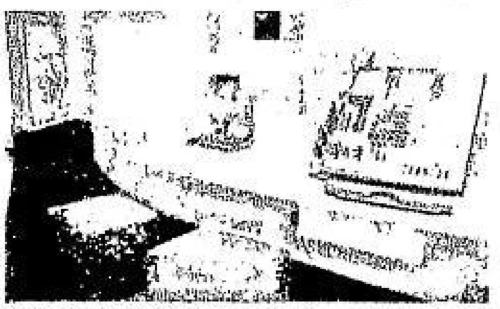
BEAUTY

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARINS

Heaven is within reach


A DERMALOGICA treatment room



THE CLARINS philosophy is grounded on the "100-percent plants and 100-percent hands" approach.

Rustan's Makati has reopened its top floor, with some new additions to its old lineup of skincare spas and treatment centers

By Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Ryan Lim

THE ONLY THING MISSING IS a gym.

Rustan's has created a little beauty and wellness heaven on the fifth level of its Makati branch. After several months of renovation, the high-end retail chain reopened the store's top floor, with some new additions to its old lineup of skincare spas and treatment centers.

Heaven on the Fifth, as it is called, now houses Clarins Institut, which moved from the former U level to join old-time fifth-level occupants Dermalogica and Murad.

Clarins Institut manager Andrea Dumancas says they've overhauled Clarins' menu of services to go with its new location. Facial and body treatments, for instance, are now named after the places where the ingredients are derived, say "Extreme Youth from Kyoto," "Whitening from the Alps" or "Firming from Guyana."

Clarins also continues to administer its specialized services designed for expectant moms, facials and back and scalp treatments for men, and body-firming and self-tanning treatments. It has also introduced its first full-body massage, Le Massage.

Dermalogica, meanwhile, is kept busy by both men and women who favor customized treatments done via Face Mapping's zone-to-zone skin analysis.

The award-winning Murad brand's treatment center has its loyal following, seeking out, among others, its anti-aging and anti-acne solutions.

Belo Medical Group's dermatology and surgical clinic is making its services available here with the opening of a center devoted to male clients, Belo for Men. There's also Island Spa and the waxing salon called Brazilian Bare.

Costliest cut

The top international haircare brand Phyto has partnered with the United States-trained hairstylist Jude Hipolito to open Univers Phyto Salon, its first concept salon outside Paris and New York.

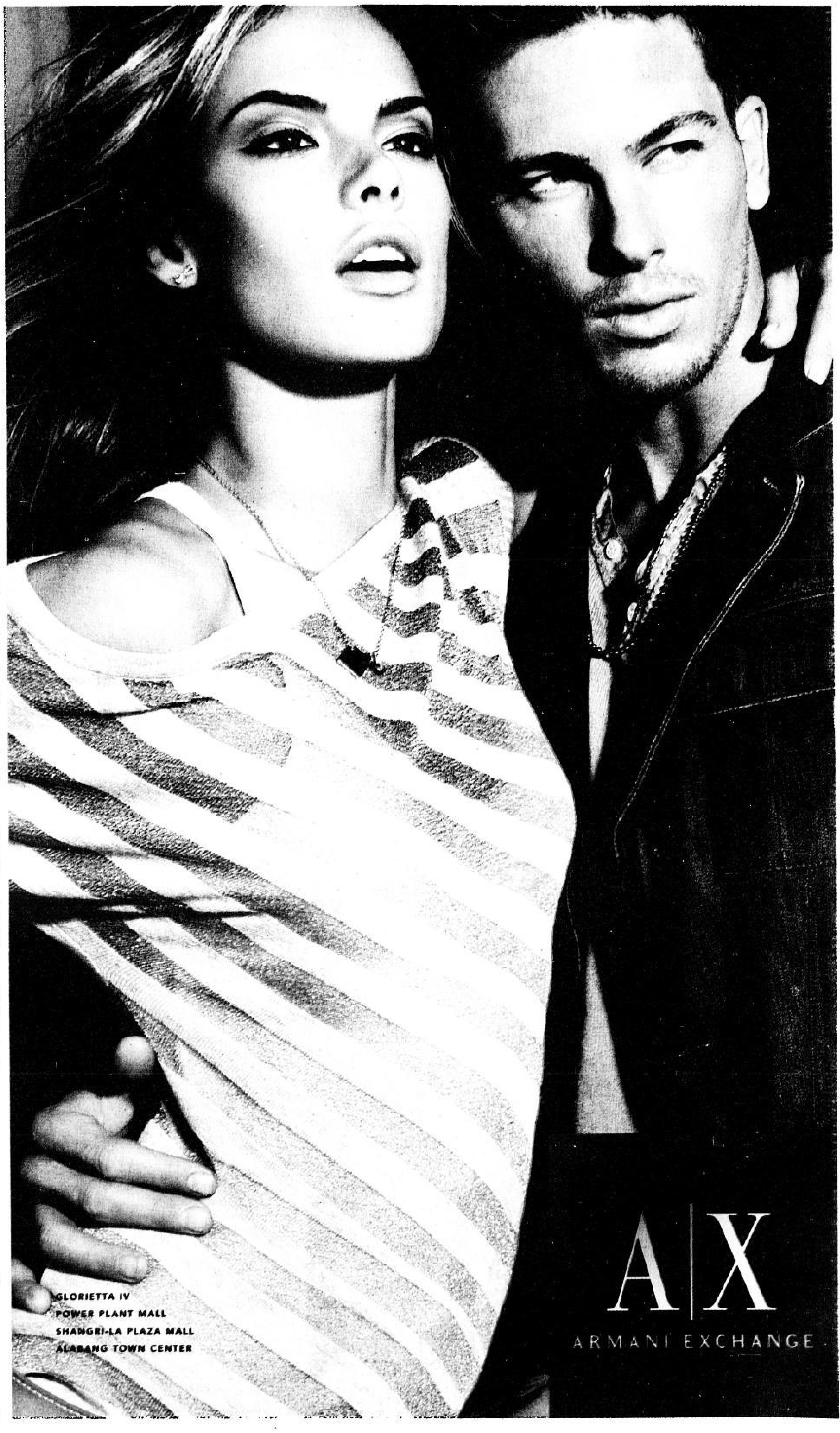
Hipolito reputedly gives the most expensive haircut in the country (at P4,000), but his satisfied clients do not seem to mind. His creative partner is his wife, Rose Velasco, who is the salon's color specialist.

Heaven on the Fifth aims to be a well-rounded service center that "nourishes the senses and stimulates the soul." Shelves upon shelves of select titles from Fully Booked now occupy the center area. Cus-

HEAVEN/ F2

THE BLACK FSP Lounge, an exclusive retreat for Rustan's' top-tier clients.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RUSTAN'S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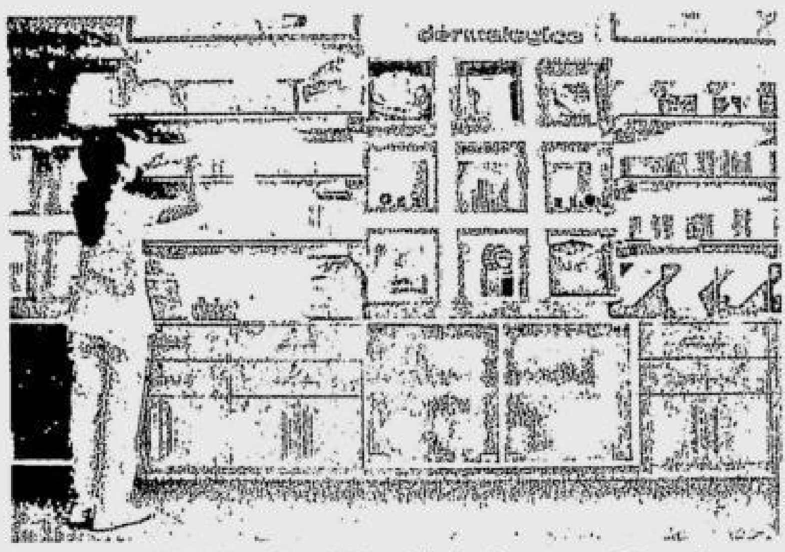
HEAVEN on the fifth floor also espouses nourishing the mind: Fully Booked sets up shop in the center with select titles and comfy couches and ottomans for reading.

Heaven is within reach



DERMALOGICA (above) and Murad (below) are two of Rustan's most popular beauty and skincare brands.

From page F1

tomers can leaf through the bookshop's selection on thoughtfully setup couches.

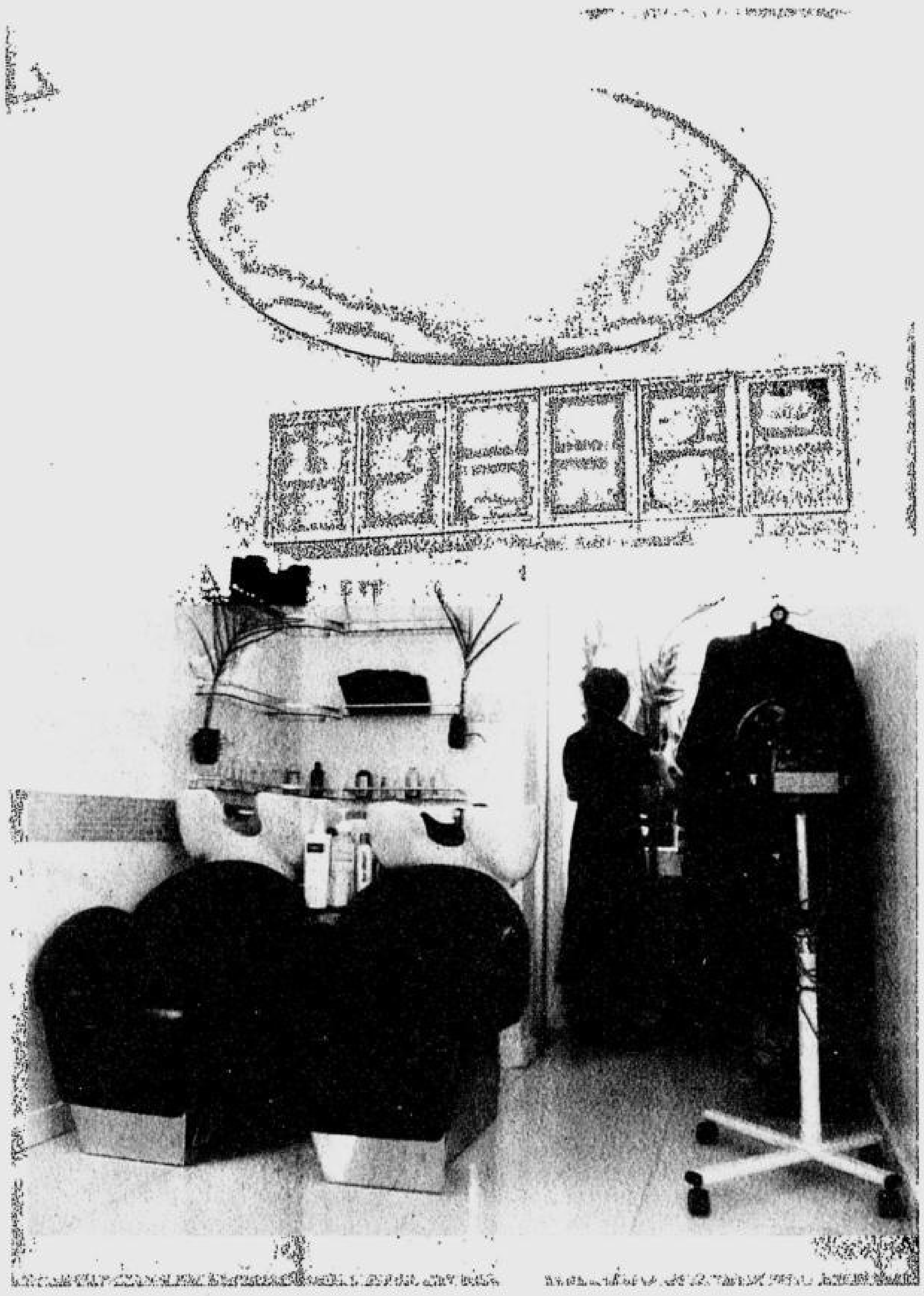
Adjacent is the Japanese chain UCC's coffee shop.

A discreet corner of this floor opens to a private enclave reserved for Rustan's top-tier clients. The Black FSP Lounge is designed pretty much like a first-class or business-class airline lounge. The department store's top spenders get to relax or have free access to Wifi connection.

The lounge is tastefully decorated with cream-colored sofas and equipped with a plasma television. It also has a shower room (that's right, a shower room!) and several dressing rooms where clients can try on their purchases.

According to Erica Lozada, the genial young woman manning the place, only 40 individuals at present have full access to the lounge. Black FSP cardholders get free valet and parking, and have their very own Black FSP shopping bags and gift tags. Membership is by invitation only.

Heaven on the Fifth is also home to the service center of Cartier, the home theater and audio equipment shop Tweak Studio, and the main concierge. Osim, maker of massage chairs, has its showroom here.



THE PLUSH shampoo room of Univers Phyto Salon, where clients get their hair prepped for the most expensive haircut in the city.

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FRESH brews and good eats at UCC Coffee

---

cut & keep

Perfect cover

AFTER. Concealer camouflages blemishes, sunspots and under-eye circles.

Text and makeup by Barbi Chan
Contributor

EVER WOKE UP FEELING TIRED and looking tired? Or maybe a zit magically appearing on your face? You have two choices. One is to feel depressed and feel ugly the whole day or, two, try to figure something out and not let it ruin your day.

I suppose the second option is the better option. Thank God for concealers! We all use it on occasion and no one has to feel guilty about it. It's the secret weapon of every flawless, radiant and fresh-looking woman.

BEFORE applying concealer

The concealer is a heavier version of the foundation. If you are using concealer with a foundation, go one shade lighter than the foundation. If you're just using concealer without the foundation, make sure the concealer matches your skin tone. This can be quite tricky since the shades are far fewer than the foundation. If you choose the wrong color (if the color is too light) you'll end up attracting more attention to the area you want covered.

Or if you choose a darker color, you'll end up looking more tired. But if you get a great match, then the world is a happy place to live in (even if it's just in your head).

The concealer instantly camouflages blemishes and sunspots and eliminates redness and, of course, under-eye circles.

This will make you look well-rested and wide awake, even when you feel and look the opposite.

That's not the only magic a concealer can do. When worn on bare skin or carefully applied on top of foundation, a concealer makes your skin look so refreshed and polished that you may not need a lot of other makeup.

It is really very challenging to find the right shade and texture. Once you get it, though, it will become easier. Always remember that a little goes a long way. A smudge of concealer is already a lot. If you put a lot, it would only emphasize the problem that you are trying to hide.

. Even when you're blemish-free, there are places where concealer works as a miracle. Under the eyes to cover dark circles, around the nostrils, on the outer corner of the eyes where it's often reddish. Sometimes foundation alone can take the place of the concealer.

Types

A concealer comes in in three types:

- Cream—Gives heavy full coverage with a dewy finish. The best cream concealer that I've tried was Cinema Secrets; its coverage was so heavy that it even camouflaged some tattoos and surgery scars. It's a little bit pricey but it goes a long way.
- Liquid—Provides the sheerest coverage with the lightest finish. I use Maybelline Perfect Concealer in light beige for my everyday makeup. I find it easy to blend and really light but gives full coverage, too. I don't think I can live without it!
- Stick—Offers medium coverage in a creamy finish. This is perfect for spider veins, acne scars. The problem with stick concealer sometimes is the cakiness. Mature skin will have a hard time with stick concealer because it could emphasize the lines around the eye area. Do not forget to prep the eye area with an eye cream to hydrate it before applying the concealer. Estée Lauder's stick concealers are very handy and easy to use.

Remember that yellow-based tones look good on all kinds of complexion and orange-based tones blend well with dark skin. Never use a concealer with any hint of white in them. They will turn into a dirty shade of gray as the day progresses. Also do not forget to apply loose powder after putting your concealer. This will set the concealer and minimize the creases that normally appear under the eye area.

E-mail author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

FOR HER: Very Irresistible Givenchy Sensual, D&G The One, Escada Sentiment and Hugo Pure Purple

ESCADA
HUGO
DOLCE & GABBANA the one

Sexy scents for him and her

What's sexy may surprise you: Men love vanilla, women love laundry

FOR HIM: Very Irresistible Givenchy Men, D&G Pour Homme, Escada Sentiment Pour Homme and Hugo Dark Blue

DOLCE & GABBANA
ESCADA
HUGO

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

GROWING UP AS a teenager in the '80s, I had delusions of growing up vampy or vixen-ish even then, hence my attraction to fragrances labeled as sexy.

It puzzled me, though, why those synthetic or intense floral oriental scents that were marketed as sexy, and bought by the basket by women, turned grown men off or made them sneeze.

It was not until the '90s that studies showed the best way to a man's heart was really through his stomach even when it came to fragrances.

Men love the smell of vanilla because they associate it with happy childhood memories of cakes for dessert.

The problem here is that the Philippines is too warm so we can only wear vanilla scents about four months a year (or only at night).

Such fragrances are not only vanilla/sweet-based, but also citrus, fruity-florals, and certain herbs and spices strategically mixed, resulting in freshness merged with the creamy sweet.

His and hers

Bear in mind the final arbiter is still your body's chemistry. So try the scent by walking around for 10 minutes, then sniffing it.

For him: **Dolce & Gabbana Pour Homme** (75 ml, P3,150; 125 ml, P4,150) is my hands-down men's favorite in this selection. The smell of cedar mixed with neroli, lavender and a hint of vanilla calls to mind a clean fresh-smelling man who just came out of the shower. It's sexy without effort.

For her: **D&G The One eau de toilette** (EDT; 50 ml, P4,350; 75 ml, P5,650), which smells of lychee, peach and mandarin with white flowers and amber. The fragrance makes me think of panna cotta or crème brûlée. It's one of the few sweet fragrances I can wear all year round, like Armani Sensi.

For him: **Hugo Dark Blue** (75 ml, P3,250; 125 ml, P4,100), which smells of ginger ale, cardamom and vanilla. Also fresh-smelling, it's very masculine but clean, plus it mixes well with perspiration.

For her: **Hugo Pure Purple**, the fruity vanilla that can be applied from day to night. The smell on me is not overpowering and it's a good mix between fresh and comforting because of the nectarine, marzipan and amber combination.

For him: **Very Irresistible Givenchy for Men**—It's a very "green" scent with hints of mint and grapefruit. I know of some girls who use it on themselves and love it. Don't know how your guy will feel about that though.

For her: **Very Irresistible Sensual** EDP—I just had to road-test this because I love Liv Tyler and it smells like fresh grapes, which turned out to be green apples and pears combined. Toss in grass and vanilla to complete the refreshing and creamy experience. This is my favorite female scent of the collection.

For him: **Escada Sentiment Pour Homme**. Sweet, spicy and woodsy is the only way to describe it. I cannot imagine this on a guy below 28 as it is very masculine and elegant and would somehow seem pretentious on one too young.

For her: **Escada Sentiment** is for women who like to smell ultra-feminine. For women who have never bought into the unisex craze, this delicate floral blend of iris, roses, mandarin mixed with vanilla and sandalwood will do it. Unlike its male counterpart, I can imagine a girl wearing this to her prom, her wedding and her daughter's wedding.

Like laundry

While men like the smell of vanilla, women adore the smell of laundry.

Clean is a brand of perfume that specializes in soapy scents. Its bestseller is Classic Clean, which has a hint of Juicy Fruit gum and lemony soap. It drives the guys around me crazy: They would grab my shirt and sniff incessantly.

My mom and her friends love Clean Fresh Laundry best as it reminds them of fabric softener and laundry detergent drying on the clothesline. It's expensive, though, and averages P4,000 a bottle.

Love clean and soapy scents? You will love Acca Cappa's White Moss EDT (mild and musky) and Woods of Windsor Forget Me Not EDT (really smells like freshly laundered clothes).

Clean, Acca Kappa and Woods of Windsor are available at Essenses.

CLEAN Classic and Fresh Laundry

CLEAN
CLEAN FRESH LAUNDRY

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Nature's skincare secrets bared

STRESS, POLLUTANTS AND THE hot tropical weather in the Philippines are some of the factors that affect your skin.

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Naturopathic products combine simple and complex plant-active ingredients to deliver special formulas that suit well the skin and the overall human system.

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Naturopathic products don't differentiate between skin types; they work to supplement individual needs and are effective for even the most sensitive of skins.

The Natural Source believes monitoring overall well-being over the long term maximizes beauty efforts.

Sticking to any one product for a long time is not necessarily a good thing. You may be clogging your pores or causing rashes due to a moisturizer that is too oily for you, or drying out your skin because the conditioning agent you're using is too harsh due to its chemical components.

So be mindful of how you are in your own beauty patterns, and take care of how your hair, skin, nails and body is today.

The Natural Source's naturopathic skincare products provide you with plant-active and other natural ingredients that give your skin utmost care.

The Natural Source is at Bldg. 8, Bonifacio Highstreet, Bonifacio Global City, and at 3/L, Trinoma Mall, Quezon City (tel. 8187138).

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Crème Hydratante Teintée Avec Protection Solaire

VANILLA & Mandarin Deluxe Body Butter, (above) Tinted Moisturizer with Sunscreen

SPF 30 sunscreen

GOINGS ON

Winning works on exhibit

WINNING WORKS AND SELECTED qualifying pieces of the 2007 Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE) national competition will be open to the public Sept. 22-24 at Le Pavillon in Pasay City. Led by the Metrobank Foundation, the competition hopes to raise awareness in building an identity in society and to promote the essential role of the arts. The contest is open to painters and sculptors aged 18-25 years, and young architects and interior designers 25-45 years old. Winners get P200,000 cash prize. The Winners' Forum and Awarding ceremonies for the MADE Competition will also be held at Le Pavillon.

BAZAAR. The United States Embassy Club (Usec) will kick off the holiday shopping season with its semi-annual Shoppers' Day Bazaar 9 a.m.-5 p.m. tomorrow at the World Trade Center. About 300 artisans, exemplifying the best in Filipino workmanship, will offer their goods and crafts at bargain prices. Proceeds from the bazaar, including those from the popular Shoppers' Day raffle, will fund a variety of local projects such as Project Smile (for cleft palate and lip operations), Friendship Home (for street children), Little Children's Home (orphanage), Shiphrah Birthing Center (for destitute women), Trichet Learning Center (mainstreaming for disabled children) and Little Sisters of the Assumption (squatters' area programs). Also included are Peace Corps projects and merit-based university scholarships (for children of US Mission national staff members). Call 8345096 or e-mail usecbazaar@gmail.com or usec_help@yahoo.com.ph.

GARDEN WORKSHOPS. Seminar-workshops on Practical Guide to Home Landscaping and Flower Arrangement for profit and leisure will be offered by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla this month at Mett's Plant Art Shop, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC. Flower Arrangement for all Occasions is set Sept. 26-30, 1-6 p.m. Registration is ongoing. Those who register at least five days before the scheduled seminar will get a 10-percent discount. Call 9394593, 4352479, 0917-8321352; or e-mail mettsplants@yahoo.com.ph.

WALK FOR A CAUSE. The Ramon Magsaysay Cubao High School is calling RMCHS Class 1959-2007 to join Lakad 2007 Alay sa Kalikasan, a walk for a cause Sept. 23, 5 a.m., starting at RMCHS campus. Registration fee is P200 inclusive of event T-shirt, refreshments, etc. Call Cecile Talusan at 9277425, 0917-6306032; or Esther Domingo at 9292745, 0917-8074424.

FUND-RAISING PROJECT. St. Bridget School's class of 1982 will hold its third major fund-raising project, "Stayin' Alive at 25," with a concert featuring the band Spirit of '67 tonight at 7, at Ratsky's Morato. Tickets are priced at P300. Call or text 0917-8660034, 0917-5301809 or 0918-9188309.

PROGRAM. The Japan Foundation Manila offers Nihongo Proficiency Program "Sensei no Nihongo 1" for Filipino Nihongo teachers. The course covers lessons 26-38 of "Minna no Nihongo" with basic practice in reading, writing and discussions about culture. Classes will be held Oct. 15-Feb. 20, 2008, 6:20-8:30 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday. Deadline for application is Sept. 27. Call 8116155-58 or fax 8116153.

JOB FAIR. The Philtrade exhibits, with the Department of Labor and Employment and Peso of Muntinlupa, will hold a job fair Sept. 29-30 at Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang. Call 8286394, 8286395, 0920-8766505 or 0927-7239798.

POSTER-MAKING. The deadline of entries for the nationwide poster-making contest "Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata 2007" has been extended until Sept. 27. For information, call 9240386 or 9299822 for details.

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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ctor sings in
ney Todd."

A peek at Johnny Depp in a musical

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—WE'RE BACK HOME AT last.

After three weeks of hotel and restaurant food in Berlin, Venice and Toronto, we couldn't wait to eat home-cooked Filipino food again—with our bare hands. At the Palazzo del Cinema in Lido or the Elgin Theatre in Toronto, our mind wandered. We thought of mongo soup, *pritong* tilapia, *sinigang na hipon* and *inihaw na bangus*. There was only one night—and this was in Toronto—when we had Pinoy dinner.

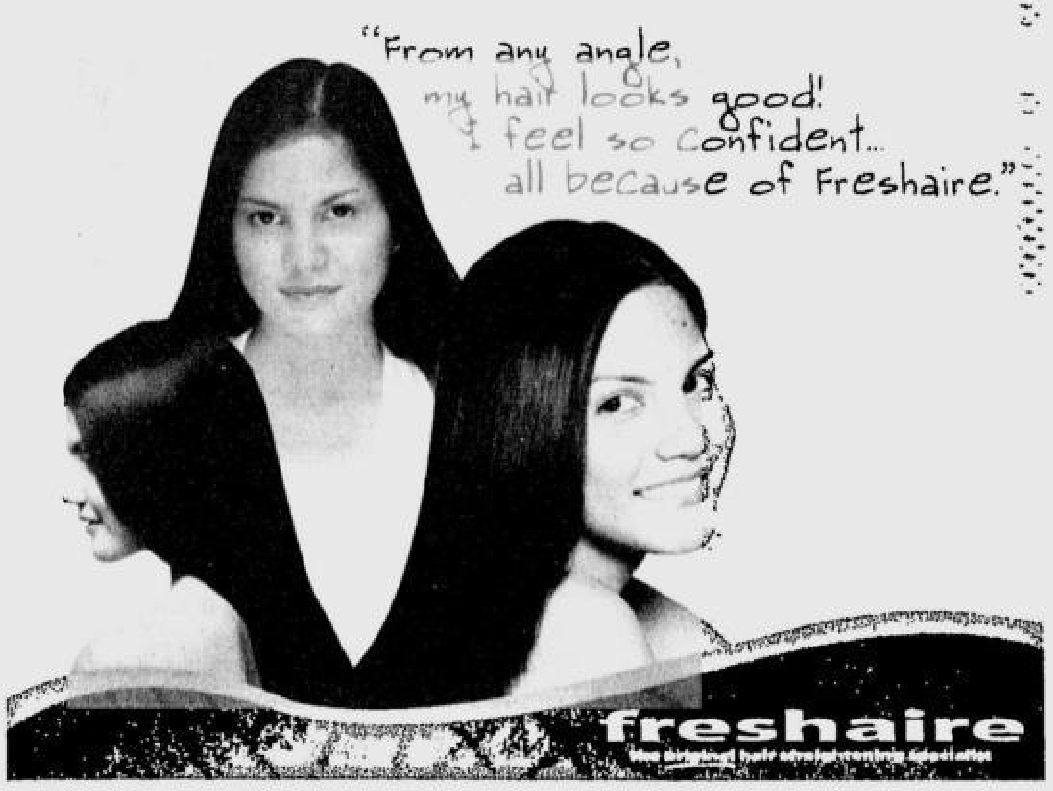
When we arrived home in LA, we feasted on those dishes like we had not eaten in months.

Singing onscreen

The past weeks seemed like a blur but here are some sidelights:

We had our first look—and listen—of Johnny Depp singing in a movie at the awarding in

A PEEK/ G2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A peek at Johnny Depp in a musical

From page G1

Venice of a Golden Lion Lifetime Achievement Award to his frequent collaborator, director **Tim Burton.**

For the first time, a footage of Tim's film adaptation of **Stephen Sondheim**'s "Sweeney Todd" was shown after he received the award from Johnny himself. When the duo got off the stage and took their seats at the Palazzo del Cinema, the gala audience was treated to the sight and sound of Johnny singing onscreen. News reports offered various running times on the footage's length, from seven to 10 minutes.

The excerpt depicted a crucial point in the Tony Award-winning operetta, when Sweeney (Johnny), a barber who was exiled by a judge so he could prey upon the wife, returns to the London apartment where he and his family used to live. Mrs. Lovett (**Helena Bonham Carter**), the proprietress of the meat-pie shop downstairs, recognizes Sweeney and gives back his razors which she has kept. Johnny, turning into the demon barber of Fleet Street, sings an homage to his gleaming razors titled "My Friends." Helena joins him later in the song.

The scene's look is appropriately gray and sinister—very Gothic. It ends with a zoom out from the apartment and into a London that's straight out of **Charles Dickens**' books.

So what did we think of Johnny warbling a tune? It was too short a film for us to make a reliable verdict. But he sounded fine on that brief footage. Earlier, on the lawn of the famed Cipriani Hotel, before we all boarded boats for the awarding at Lido, Tim told us, "I knew Johnny was in a band. I knew he was musical. I know him well enough that he would say, 'I can't do it' if he thought he couldn't do a singing role."

The director, who also premiered a 3D version of his 1993 "The Nightmare Before Christmas," said about **Sacha Baron Cohen**'s ("Borat") try-out as a rival barber: "He virtually sang the entire songbook of 'Fiddler on the Roof' which he had brought to the audition." Smiling, the director added, "I wish I had a camera with me during that time."

When Johnny saw Helena, who is pregnant with her second child with Tim (she is due in December), he pointed at her protruding tummy and teased, "What happened?" Helena was quick: "We kissed, remember?"

KEIRA Knightley at her press con in Toronto RUBEN NEPALES

World-class hangover

In Toronto, we smelled alcohol on the breath of this brilliant actor. Not during an evening party but at our interview with him in the morning. No wonder the man opened a bottle of Advil and popped pills into his mouth. It must have been a world-class hangover.

Cinematic stockings

Christian Dior stockings were worn not by lead actress **Keira Knightley** in her romantic drama, "Atonement," but were put on the camera as a filter to evoke a golden, lustrous glow in the 1930s scenes.

Director **Joe Wright**, who also directed Keira in "Pride & Prejudice," told us that he and his cinematographer, **Seamus McGarvey**, used not just any Dior stockings, mind you, but a certain line of hosiery the fashion house has stopped making. Apparently, someone had the foresight to buy all the remaining stocks of this

A PEEK/ G4

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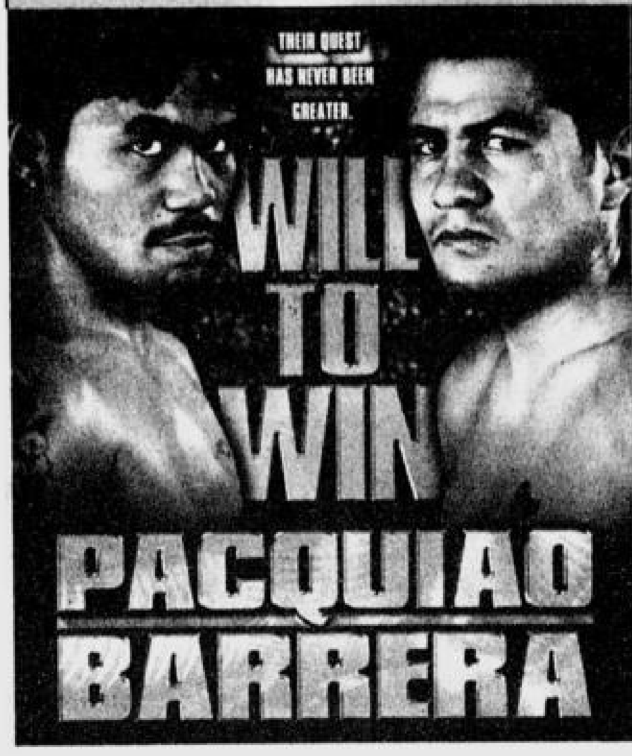

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3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 BRATZ
5 SHOOT EM' UP
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 UNDERDOG
9 THE HOST
10 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
11 1408
12 RUSH HOUR 3

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 UNDERDOG
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 BRATZ
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 THE HOST
8 A LOVE STORY
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 1408
11 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE BRAVE ONE
4 SHOOT EM' UP
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
8 A LOVE STORY
9 **RESERVED**
10 EVAN ALMIGHTY
11 1408
12 BRATZ

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
4 BRATZ
5 SHOOT EM' UP
6 A LOVE STORY
7 THE BRAVE ONE
8 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
9 1408
10 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 1408
4 BRATZ
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
6 UNDERDOG

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 BRATZ
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
5 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
6 UNDERDOG
7 THE HOST
8 THE BRAVE ONE
9 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
3 BRATZ
4 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
5 UNDERDOG
6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
7 1408
8 THE HOST
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 THE BRAVE ONE

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2 DAYWATCH
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 UNDERDOG

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1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 SHOOT EM' UP

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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 SHOOT EM' UP
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4 UNDERDOG

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1 SHOOT EM' UP
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
5 UNDERDOG
6 THE BRAVE ONE
7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
8 BRATZ

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 NANCY DREW
3 DAYWATCH
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 SKINWALKERS
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 INVASION/DAYWATCH

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 1408
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 BUG
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 THE LAST LEGION
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 DAYWATCH
4 UNDERDOG
5 NANCY DREW
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 1408

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 1408
2 BLIND DATING
3 SINKING OF JAPAN
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 UNDERDOG/DAYWATCH
2 DISTURBIA
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 SHOOT EM' UP
4 UNDERDOG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 DAYWATCH
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 UNDERDOG
3 A LOVE STORY
4 NANCY DREW
5 LAST LEGION
6 DISTURBIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 NANCY DREW
2 DISTURBIA
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE LAST LEGION

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 INVASION
2 **RESERVED**
3 SKINWALKERS
4 UNDERDOG
5 DISTURBIA
6 1408
7 **RESERVED**
8 THE LAST LEGION

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 OSS 117
3 THE LAST LEGION
4 NANCY DREW
5 DISTURBIA
6 DON'T LOOK BACK
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 ROGUE ASSASSIN

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 UNDERDOG
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 SKINWALKERS
4 INVASION/SINKING OF JAPAN

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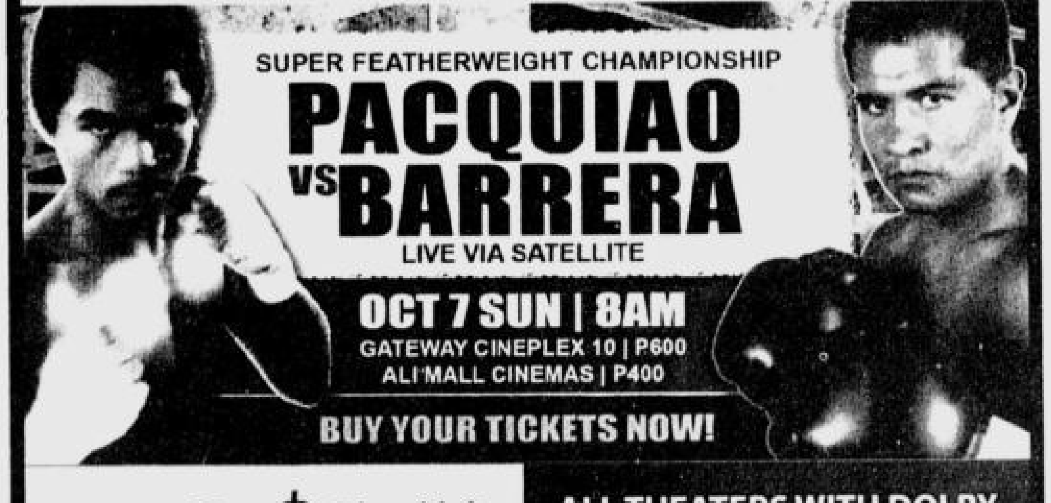

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HOST 12:55 / 3:45 / 6:35 / 9:25	UNDERDOG 2:05 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME 1:55 / 4:30 / 7:05 / 9:40	
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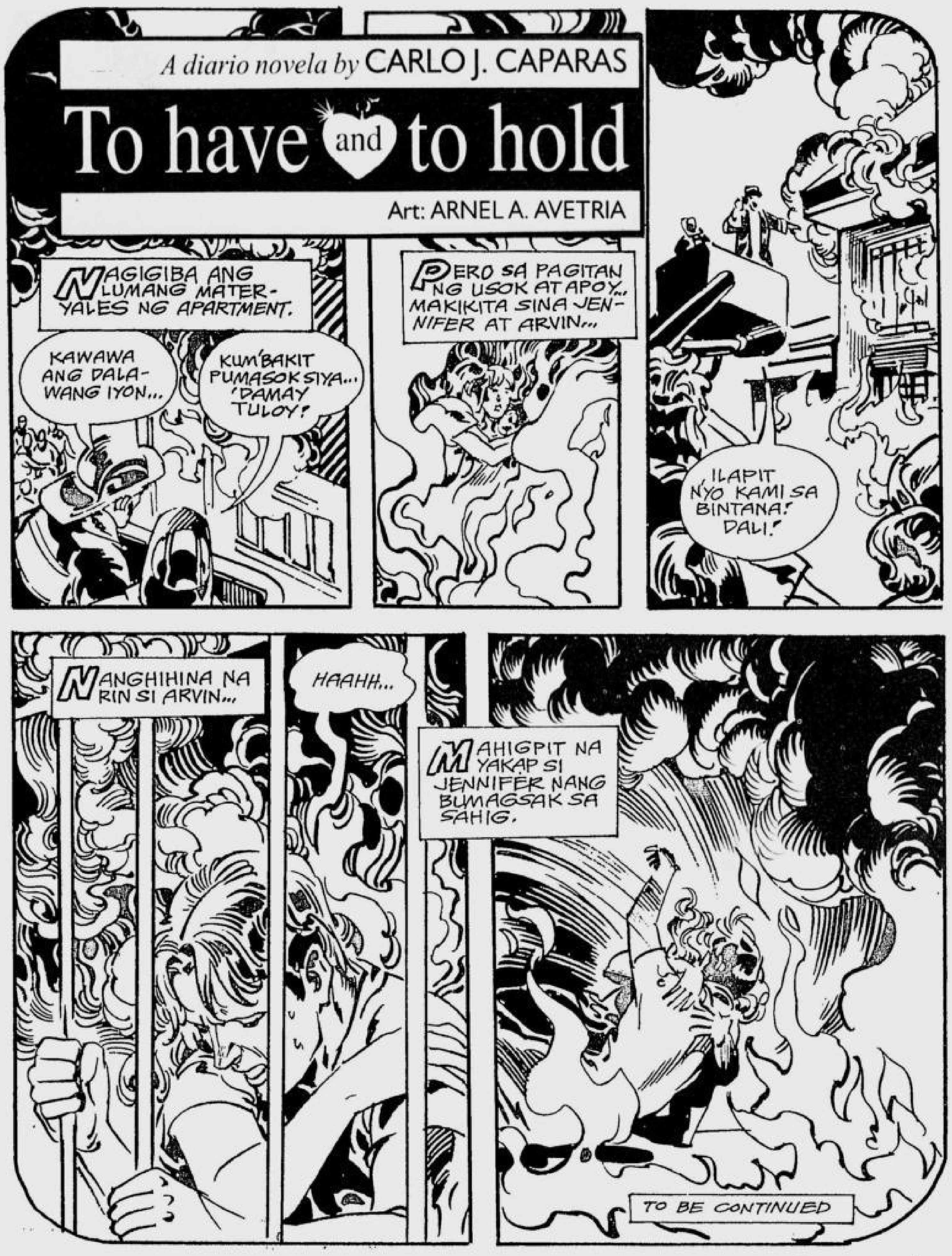
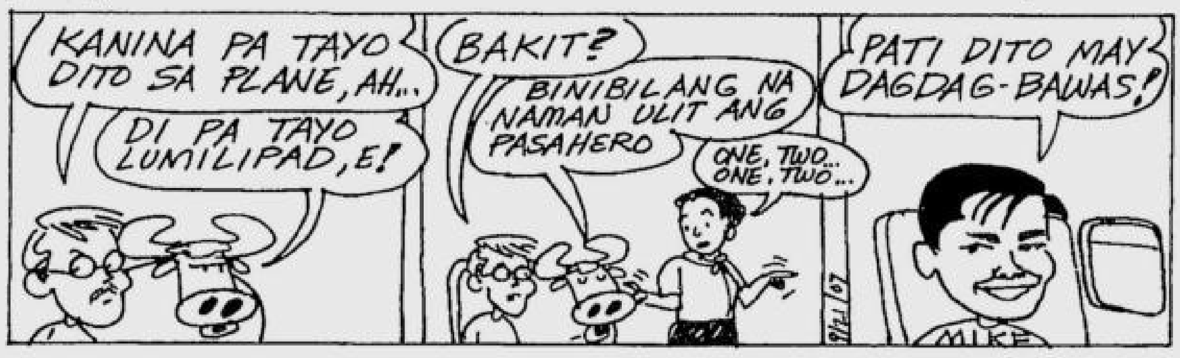
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

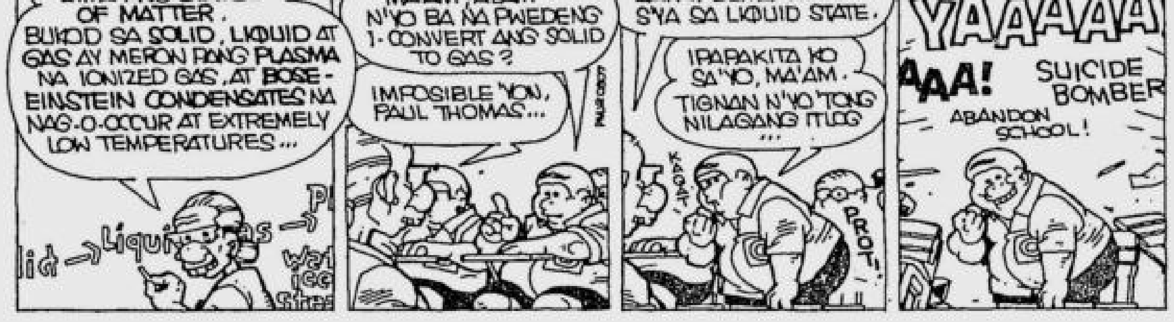
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


NAGIGIBA ANG LUMANG MATER-YALES NG APARTMENT.
KAWAWA ANG DALA-WANG IYON...
KUM'BAKIT PUMASOK SIYA... 'DAMAY TULOY!
PERO SA PAGITAN NG USOK AT APOY... MAKIKITA SINA JEN-NIFER AT ARVIN...
ILAPIT N'YO KAMI SA BINTANA! DALI!
NANGHIHINA NA RIN SI ARVIN...
HAAHH...
MAHIGPIT NA YAKAP SI JENNIFER NANG BUMAGSAK SA SAHIG.
TO BE CONTINUED

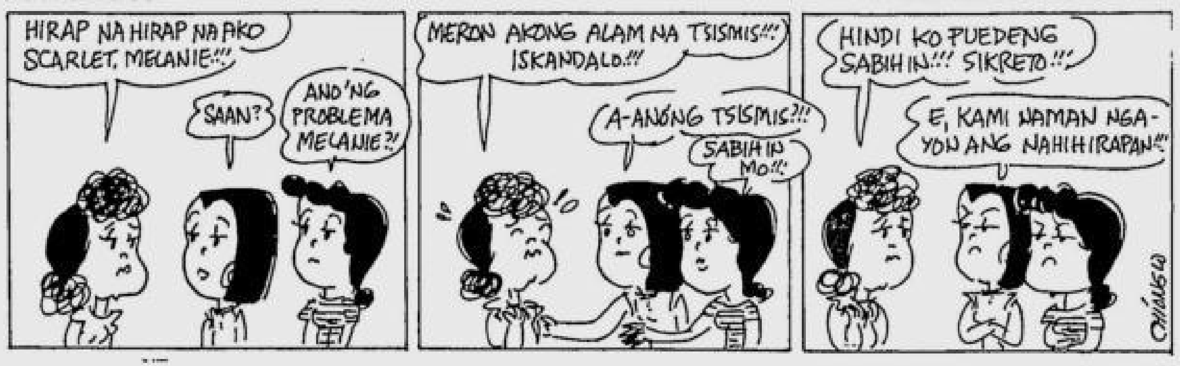
A, LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


KANINA PA TAYO DITO SA PLANE, AH...
DI PA TAYO LUMILIPAD, E!
BAKIT?
BINIBILANG NA NAMAN ULIT ANG PASAHERO
ONE, TWO... ONE, TWO...
PATI DITO MAY DAGDAG-BAWAS!
9/21/07
MIKE

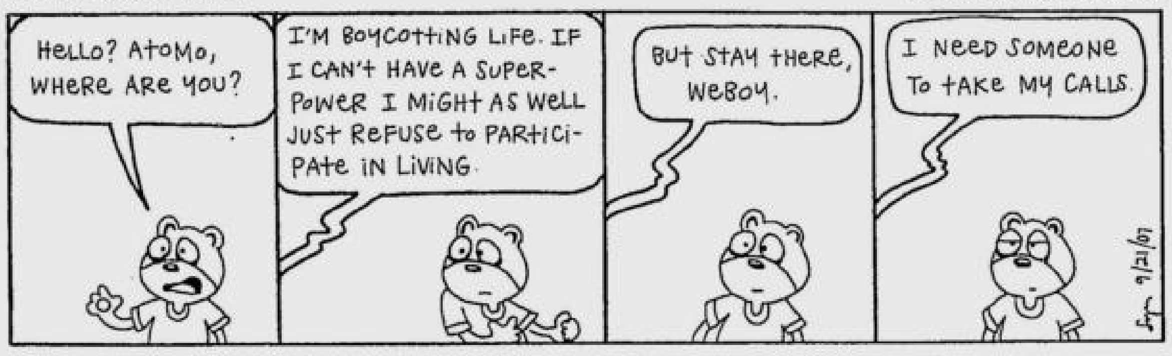
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


LIMA ANG STATES OF MATTER. BUKOD SA SOLID, LIQUID AT GAS AY MERON PANG PLASMA NA IONIZED GAS, AT BOSE-EINSTEIN CONDENSATES NA NAG-O-OCCUR AT EXTREMELY LOW TEMPERATURES...
lid → Liquid → Gas → Pl
MA'AM, ALAM N'YO BA NA PWEDENG I-CONVERT ANG SOLID TO GAS?
IMPOSIBLE 'YON, PAUL THOMAS...
DAPAT DUMAAN MUNA S'YA SA LIQUID STATE.
IPAPAKITA KO SA'YO, MA'AM. TIGNAN N'YO 'TONG NILAGANG ITLOG...
KAGAT
PROT!
YAAAAAAAA!
SUICIDE BOMBER
ABANDON SCHOOL!

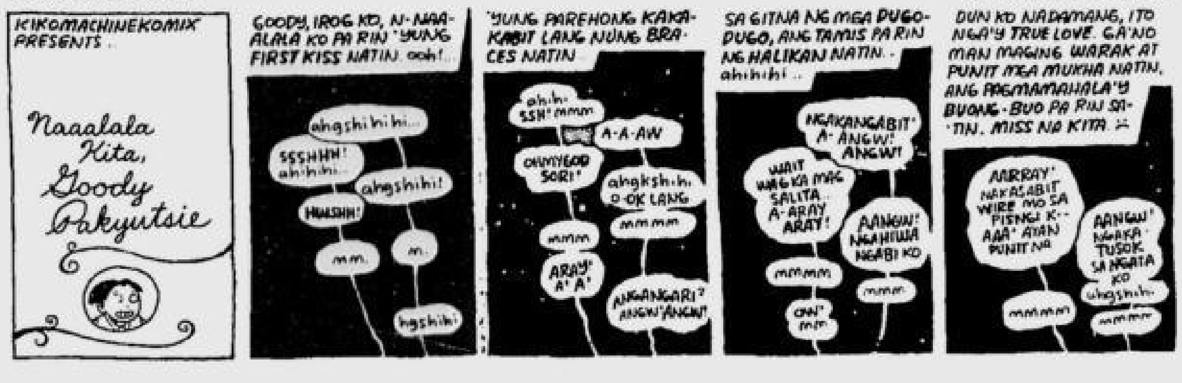
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HIRAP NA HIRAP NA AKO SCARLET, MELANIE!!!
SAAN?
ANO'NG PROBLEMA MELANIE?!
MERON AKONG ALAM NA TSISMIS!!! ISKANDALO!!!
A-ANONG TSISMIS?!!
SABIHIN MO!!
HINDI KO PUEDENG SABIHIN!!! SIKRETO!!!
E, KAMI NAMAN NGA-YON ANG NAHIHIRAPAN!!
CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HeLLo? AtoMo, WHeRe Are you?
I'M BoyCottiNG LiFe. IF I CAN'T HAVe A SuPeR-PoweR I MiGHt AS WeLL JuSt ReFuSe to PARtiCi-PAte iN LiViNG.
But StAy there, WeBoy.
I NeeD SomeoNe To tAKe My CALLS.
9/21/07

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS
Naaalala Kita, Goody Pakyutsie
GOODY, IROG KO, N-NAA-ALALA KO PA RIN 'YUNG FIRST KISS NATIN. ooh!...
ahgshihihi...
SSSHHH! ahihihi...
ahgshihi!
HUASHH!
mm.
m.
hgshihi
'YUNG PAREHONG KAKA-KABIT LANG NUNG BRA-CES NATIN
ahihi SSH' mmm
A-A-AW
OHMYGOD SORI!
ahgkshihi O-OK LANG
mmmm
mmm
ARAY! A' A'
NAGKAKABIT? ANGW'ANGW!
SA GITNA NG MGA DUGO-DUGO, ANG TAMIS PA RIN NG HALIKAN NATIN.. ahihihi..
NGAKANGABIT' A-ANGW! ANGW!
WAIT WAG KA MAG SALITA. A-ARAY ARAY!
AANGW! NGAHIWA NGABI KO
mmmm
mmm
OW! mm
DUN KO NADAMANG, ITO NGA'Y TRUE LOVE. GA'NO MAN MAGING WARAK AT PUNIT MGA MUKHA NATIN, ANG PAGMAMAHALA'Y BUONG-BUO PA RIN SA-TIN. MISS NA KITA.
ARRAY! NAKASABIT WIRE MO SA PISNGI K- AAA' ATAN PUNIT NA
AANGW! NAAKA TUSOK SA MGATA KO uhgshih.
mmmm
mmmm

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Beats me!
6 Big name in faucets
10 Green stroke
14 Violinist Stern
15 Basilica feature
16 End of a buck?
17 Big name in brewing
18 Intense passion
19 Cellar, in ads
20 Jan & Dean hit
23 Coll. sports div.
26 Close friend
27 Dutch bloomer
28 Glen Campbell hit
33 Where Polo went
34 Munich's river
35 Nu Tornados hit
43 1492 caravel
44 Sword with a blunted tip
45 Roger Miller hit
51 Unaffiliated film co.
52 Pool stick
53 Of the ear: pref.
54 Elvis Presley hit
59 Opposite of sans
60 Dollop
61 Office crew
65 Florentine glassmaker
66 Old-time newspaper section
67 Competitive personality
68 Publishing ID
69 Summit
70 _ _ buena

DOWN

1 Party bowlful
2 NAFTA participant
3 Collar, as a crook
4 Rambler maker
5 Squid kin
6 Big name in oil
7 German auto
8 Genesis twin
9 Foster film
10 Insipid writing
11 Andress of "Dr. No"
12 Funny Lily
13 Find sums in London
21 Rebellious Turner
22 Wombs
23 Give and take
24 Desire
25 One-fifth of MX
29 Computer of "2001..."
30 Pastel purple
31 DSL offerer
32 Slangy refusal
36 Photographer Adams
37 Meas. across
38 Printer's spaces
39 DDE's rival
40 Until
41 Pants part
42 Space leader?
45 Cutting edges
46 Adjective modifier
47 B-complex component
48 Appliance patented in 1803
49 Harbor boat
50 Like bread dough
51 Russian ruler known as "Moneybag"
55 Taj Mahal city
56 Sty fare
57 Mark a ballot
58 Eyelid inflammation
62 Busy IRS month
63 Shortest mo.
64 Air-travel watchdog grp.

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					■	18				■	19			
■	■	■	20		21					22				
23	24	25	■	26			■	■	■	27				
28			29				30	31	32					■
33				■	■	■	34				■	■	■	■
35				36	37	38					39	40	41	42
■	■	■	■	43				■	■	■	44			
■	45	46	47					48	49	50				
51					■	■	■	52			■	53		
54					55	56	57				58	■	■	■
59				■	60				■	61		62	63	64
65				■	66				■	67				
68				■	69				■	70				

By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

9/21/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	H	A	M	S	■	T	R	A	P	■	G	O	A	T
H	A	R	E	M	■	H	I	F	I	■	U	N	D	O
A	N	G	L	O	■	A	N	T	S	■	I	T	E	M
Y	O	U	D	O	N	T	G	E	T	■	N	O	N	E
S	I	E	S	T	A	■	■	R	O	L	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	H	I	L	L	■	L	E	A	D	I	N
O	B	I	S	■	L	O	I	S	■	E	P	O	D	E
T	O	B	E	A	S	A	F	E	D	R	I	V	E	R
T	W	I	R	L	■	N	E	R	O	■	G	E	E	D
O	L	D	E	S	T	■	R	A	R	A	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	O	O	N	■	■	I	M	A	G	E	S
A	G	O	G	■	B	Y	A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T
L	A	K	E	■	A	L	B	A	■	G	U	S	T	O
D	I	R	T	■	G	O	L	D	■	O	L	S	E	N
A	L	A	I	■	O	N	E	S	■	S	T	O	R	E

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9/21/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		2						
	7			8		4		2
9								3
		1	3					5
5	2			4			1	6
6					9	7		
8								7
1		5		6			3	
						9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/21

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Answer to previous puzzle

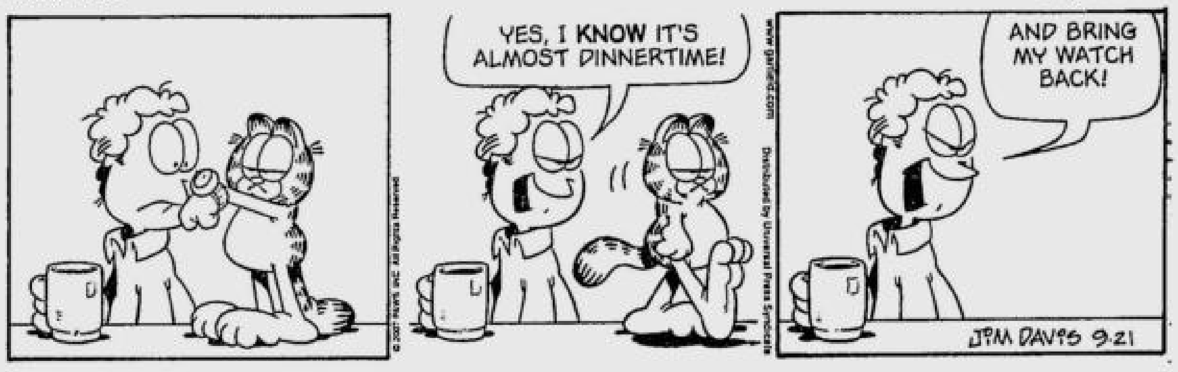
9	6	5	2	7	3	8	4	1
8	2	1	9	5	4	7	3	6
4	7	3	8	6	1	2	9	5
3	9	7	5	2	8	6	1	4
1	8	6	4	9	7	3	5	2
2	5	4	3	1	6	9	7	8
5	4	2	7	8	9	1	6	3
6	3	9	1	4	2	5	8	7
7	1	8	6	3	5	4	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS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AND BRING MY WATCH BACK!
JIM DAVIS 9.21

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong need to express yourself. You're definitely skilled with words. Perseverance and persistence help you achieve your goals. In your 20s, relationships are especially important. As you grow older, your personal power grows! Travel and frequent change will please your tendency to be impulsive. You will have to make a major decision or choice this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Leonard Cohen, poet/singer; Faith Hill, singer; Stephen King, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Whether for romantic reasons or social reasons, you feel extremely idealistic—perhaps even confused. Go gently. Enjoy yourself. Don't overdo booze or any kind of chemical.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your idealism about family members, or some kind of situation at home or even about something beautiful that you want for your home is very strong today. (If you think you're going overboard, you are.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel very caring and loving toward siblings or someone you see on a daily basis. Do what you can, but be reasonable; an element of confusion exists today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Be very careful in financial transactions today. If shopping, keep your receipts. Count your change. Double-check everything.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today fair Venus is in your sign, but fuzzy Neptune opposes it. This makes you feel extremely idealistic toward others, but also vulnerable and naive. Moi? Yes, you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel quite selfless today. You're ready to put the interests of someone else before your own. Caring for someone is a good thing, but don't be a sucker.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your idealism is high today regarding friends and groups. You feel like one of the Three Musketeers—"All for one, and one for all!"

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Parents, bosses, teachers and VIPs might expect a lot from you today. If it is reasonable and you can deliver, then do so. But don't knock yourself out trying to please others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your appreciation of beauty is definitely heightened today. Try to see beautiful things in beautiful places. Visit parks, galleries or museums, or take a ride in the country.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't give away the farm today. Sympathetic feelings for someone could cloud your judgment. It's good to be generous; it's important to be generous. But true generosity is giving what is needed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're eager to please a partner or close friend today. This impulse is fine. But don't let others take advantage of you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you can help a coworker today, do it. But don't feel guilty about what you cannot do. You have your limitations just like everyone else.

TAKE FIVE

Sitti on record: I'm not yet a mom

By Marinel R. Cruz

BOSSA NOVA SINGER SITTI was feeling much better when she sat down with INQUIRER Entertainment for this interview. In fact, she was deep in rehearsals for her show at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel (tonight at 9, with Ricci Chan and Aquarella as guest performers).

Sitti had to cancel her Sept. 7 gig at the same venue due to pneumonia and laryngitis brought about by fatigue and lack of sleep.

"My doctor advised me not to talk for several days," Sitti said. But now she's good and ready.

Apart from provincial shows and a regular stint at the Stonehouse Café in Quezon City, Sitti is seen on the soap series "Ysabella" and the Sunday variety show "ASAP '07" on ABS-CBN.

She recently released her third album, "Sitti: My Bossa Nova" (Warner).

SITTI

How do you take care of your voice?

I take honey. I don't talk, if I can help it.

What's your most memorable gig so far?

The one at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu during the Sinulog festival this year. It was a jam-packed, back-to-back show with Nyoy Volante. When the band was introduced, the power went out. Our drummer started his solo. The crowd turned on their cell phone lights. It was so cool.

I also like performing in Baguio City where the audience appreciates bossa nova and jazz.

What's the worst place you've performed in?

An entertainment center on Roxas Boulevard. I performed to a drunken crowd, who didn't know my music. They kept shouting mean words. When things like that happen, I just continue singing.

Have you ever sung at a funeral?

I've sung in churches because my mom is a catechist, but not at funerals, although I did sing at the wake of my uncle. I don't consider that a gig, though.

Are you in a relationship right now?

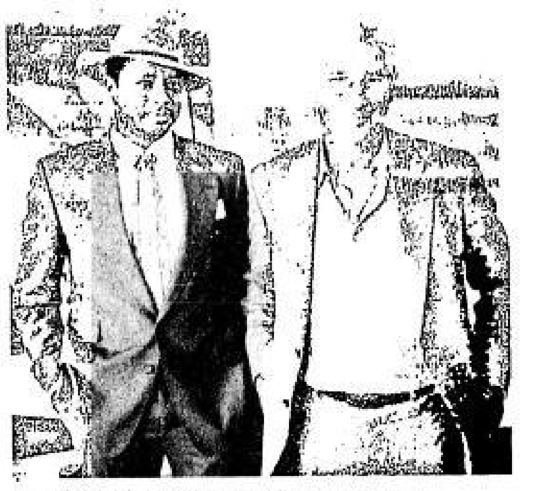
I'm dating. A lot of guys express admiration but no one is seriously courting me. I've had previous relationships, and I guess I'm ready for a new one. *Mahirap din ang puro trabaho.* At the end of the day, you'd want someone to share your experiences with.

Describe your ideal guy.

He should not be in show biz. I prefer a clean-looking guy to a guy with a bad-boy image.

What's the worst thing ever said about you?

I was shocked when I heard of the rumor that I already had a child. That's not true at all. I panicked when I was told that "The Buzz" was coming out with a story on that. I was so relieved when the program aired my denial.



WHO'S Mr. GQ? Terrence Howard or Richard Gere? RUBEN NEPALES

A peek . . .

From page G2

line of nylons. So this person made a killing selling these stockings to Joe and Seamus.

Puzzling haircut

What's up with **Ewan McGregor**'s outdated punk hairstyle these days? We didn't get a chance to ask Ewan in Venice about the puzzling cut of his mane. Is it for a role or is he just being nostalgic?

Fashion forward

Terrence Howard looked so dapper when he showed up for our chat, also in Venice, that he made his "The Hunting Party" co-star **Richard Gere** appear like a fashion slouch. That's saying a lot because Richard is Mr. GQ personified, especially during his "American Gigolo" days.

Terrence, wearing a hat and a suit complete with a hankie on his breast pocket, and Richard play journalists in Sarajevo who are tracking down a war criminal in the dark comedy, "The Hunting Party." Their director, **Richard Shepard**, remembered us as "the writer from the Philippines" because we talked to him two years ago about the Manila scene (actually shot in Mexico) in **Pierce Brosnan**'s "The Matador."

Later, in Toronto, where Terrence flew to after Venice, as did most of the stars, he also showed up sharply dressed, again with a hat and a hankie on his breast pocket. The man is a peacock. Did we say he's also a darn good actor? He holds his own against **Jodie Foster** in "The Brave One."

Amusing discoveries

At the Venice Film Fest's press room, being cooped up daily with journalists who were typing away on laptops offered amusing discoveries. We've concluded that most of us are mentally challenged when it comes to computers. We saw some writers behaving like helpless babies, summoning the press room staff for every single laptop problem or software glitch.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

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④ SHOOT 'EM UP MTRCB R-13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
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October 08 & 09 2007 | "Alamat" Stageplay | [illegible]
October 12 & 13, 2007 | Apo Hiking Society | 8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
Sept. 21, 28, 2007 | Drag [illegible] | 10:00 PM
Sep. 20, 27 Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 | Corrudo Classico | 8:00 PM
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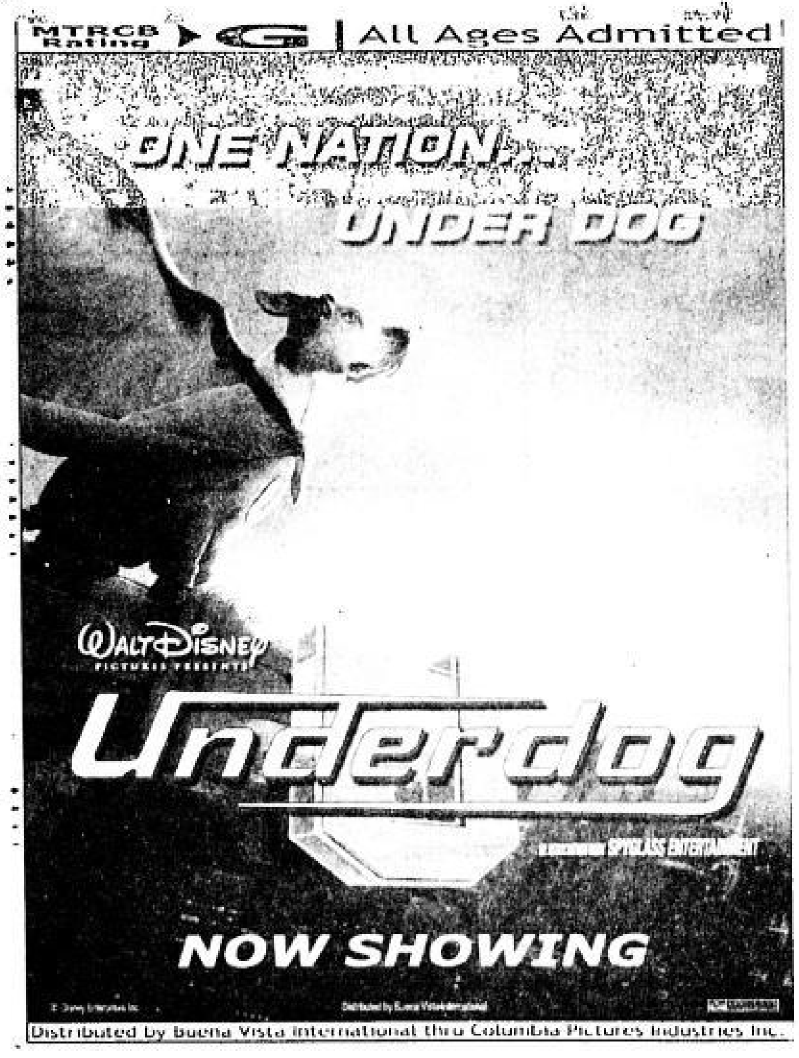
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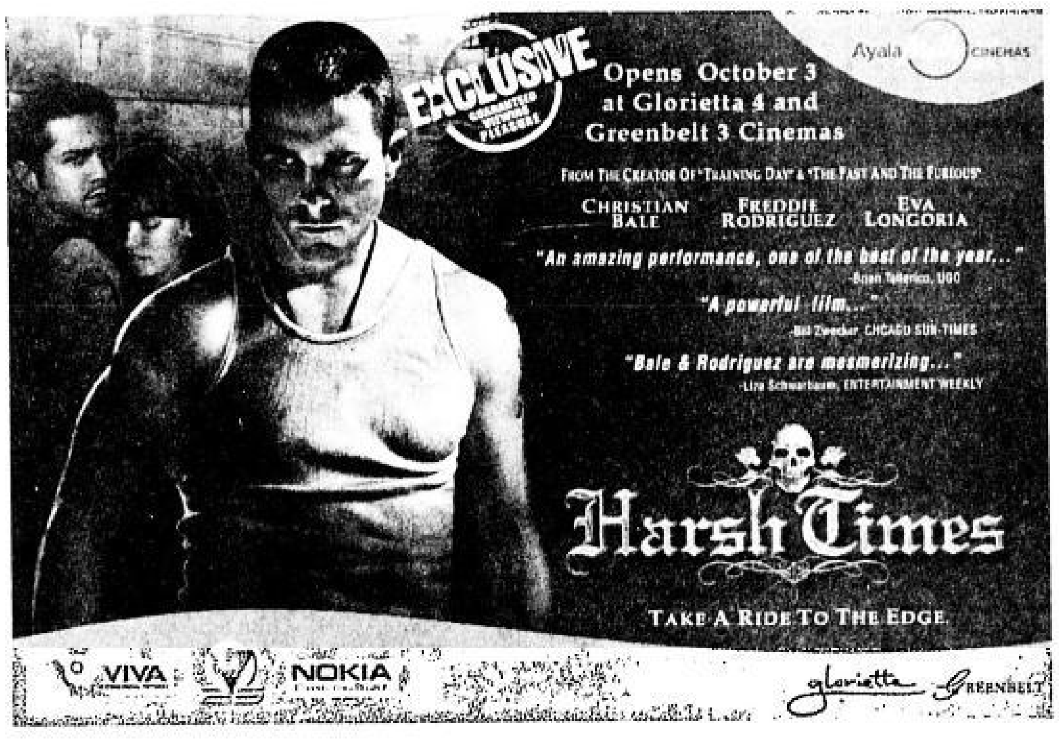
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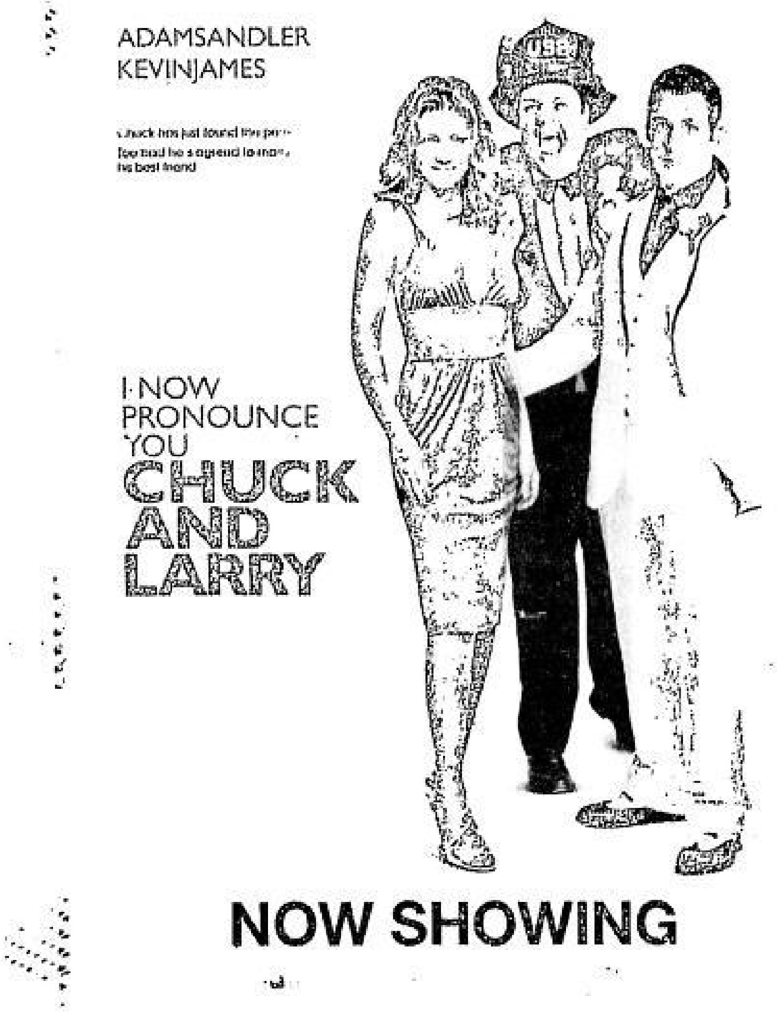
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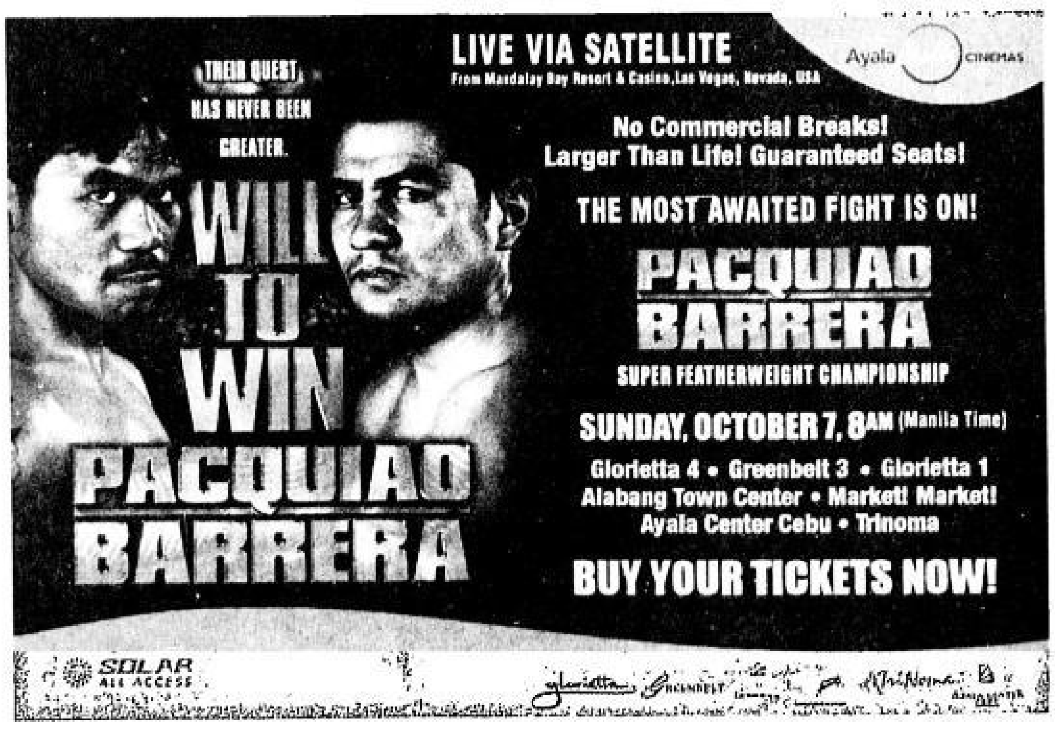
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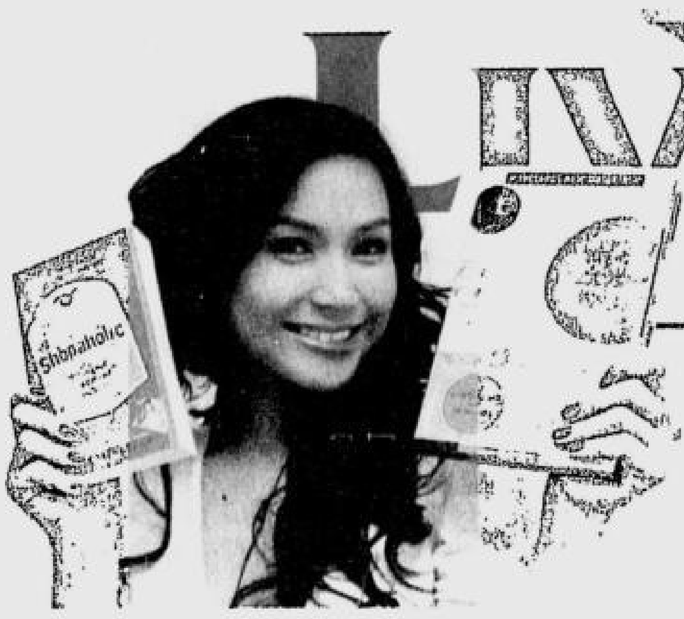
INSIDE

- **Jen Rosendahl's bedroom** Favorite Nook /H2
- **Kian Kazemi's condo a work in progress** Home Body /H4

BOOKS



MARIEL RODRIGUEZ

"CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC" BY SOPHIE KINSELA. She's my favorite author. We think alike. If she sees something she likes, she tells herself: "I can wear it with my like this, with my like that." I'm just like her. Sometimes, I couldn't decide whether to pick the green or blue top because they're both nice. I'm happy that I'm not alone in my troubles about shopping.

"He's Just Not That Into You: The No-Excesses Truth to Understanding Guys" by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tucillo. All girls should have one of these. This serves as a reminder of some sort when dealing with guys. I kept saying, "*Oo nga pala, ganun pala yun,*" when I was reading this.

Marinel R. Cruz

ROMY HOMILLADA

DIANA ZUBIRI

MY "ENCANTADIA" FRIENDS SUNshine Dizon, Iza Calzado and Karylle gave me the inspirational book "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne on my birthday last April. It's very beautiful. I learned a lot about myself from reading it. It lifts me up when I'm lonely. It's about focusing on the positive and getting rid of negative thoughts. I'll recommend it to my other friends because it'll surely help them overcome the obstacles in their lives.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

REM ZAMORA

CESAR MONTANO

IN OUR REST HOME IN PANDI, BULACAN, I RAISE CHICKENS. Apart from the big Kabir chickens from Israel, I also have native poultry, which is in demand now. We also have a *tilapia* pond, which my kids love. We have lots of exotic birds there. Once, an eagle wandered into our farm, but we set it free. We also have cats and dogs there. I used to have a Belgian Malinois, but [my wife] Sunshine's mini pinscher tried to mate with it. Of course the Malinois got mad and killed the mini pinscher! Sunshine was so upset, I sent the Malinois to our house in Las Piñas.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTO BY RYAN LIM

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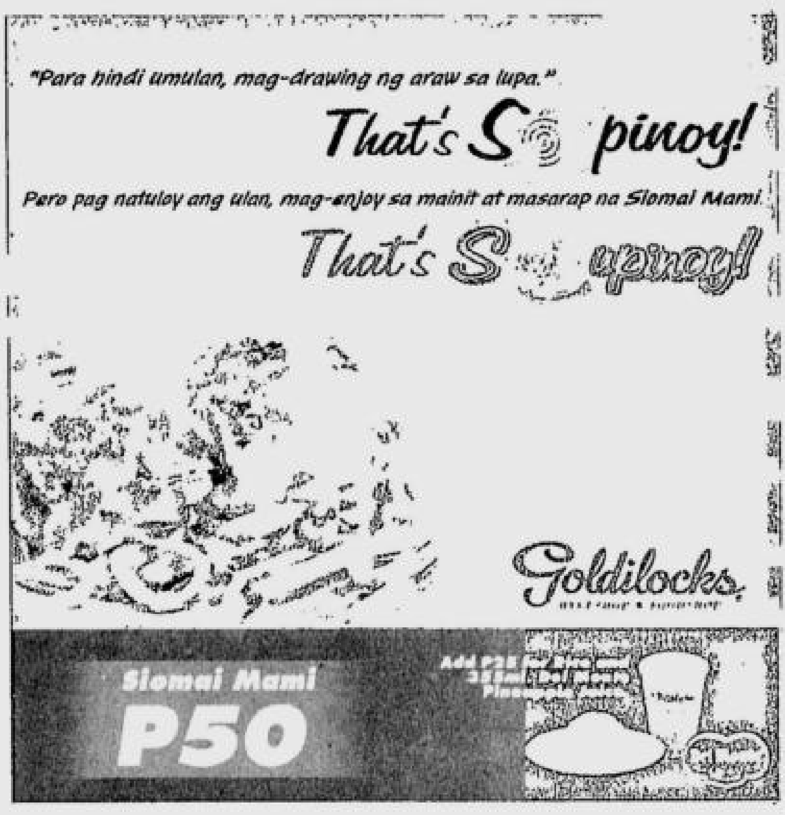
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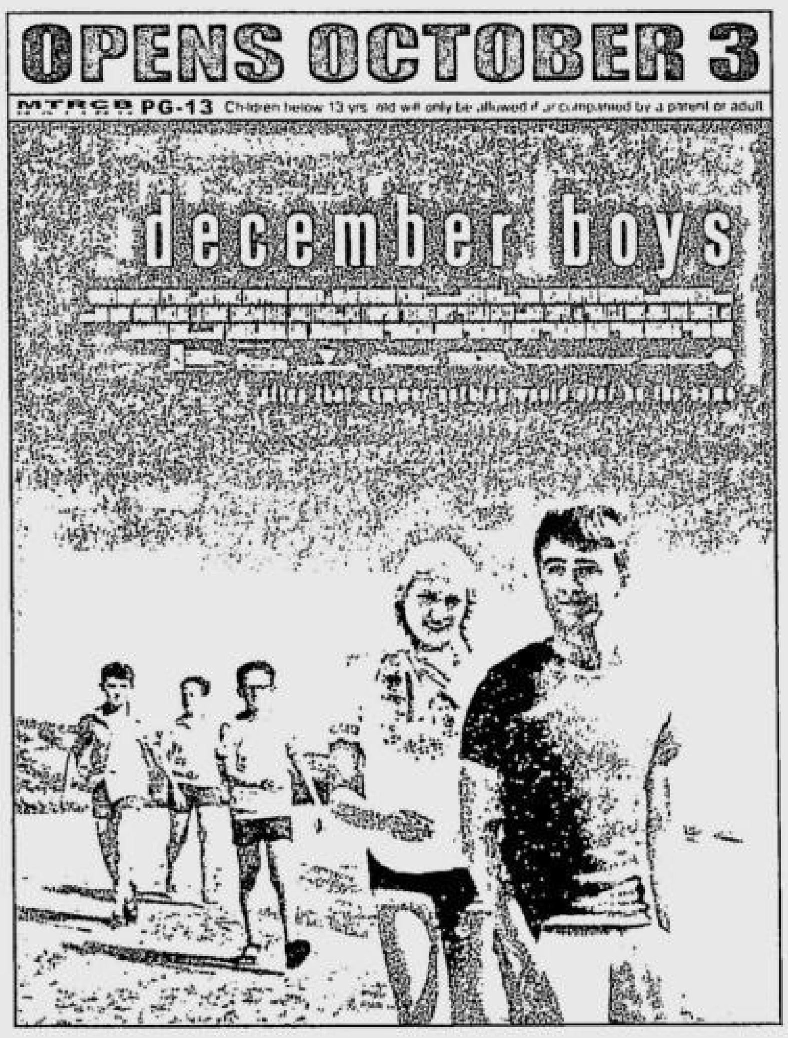
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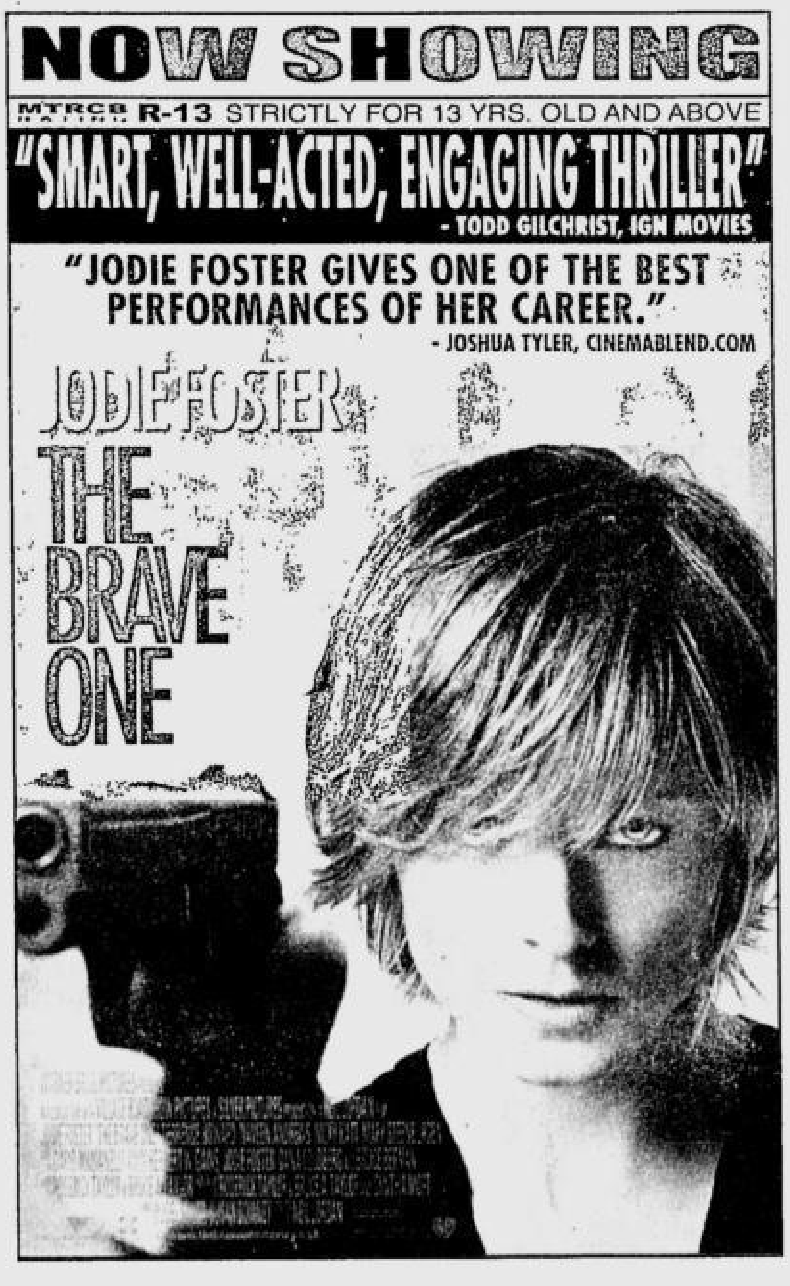
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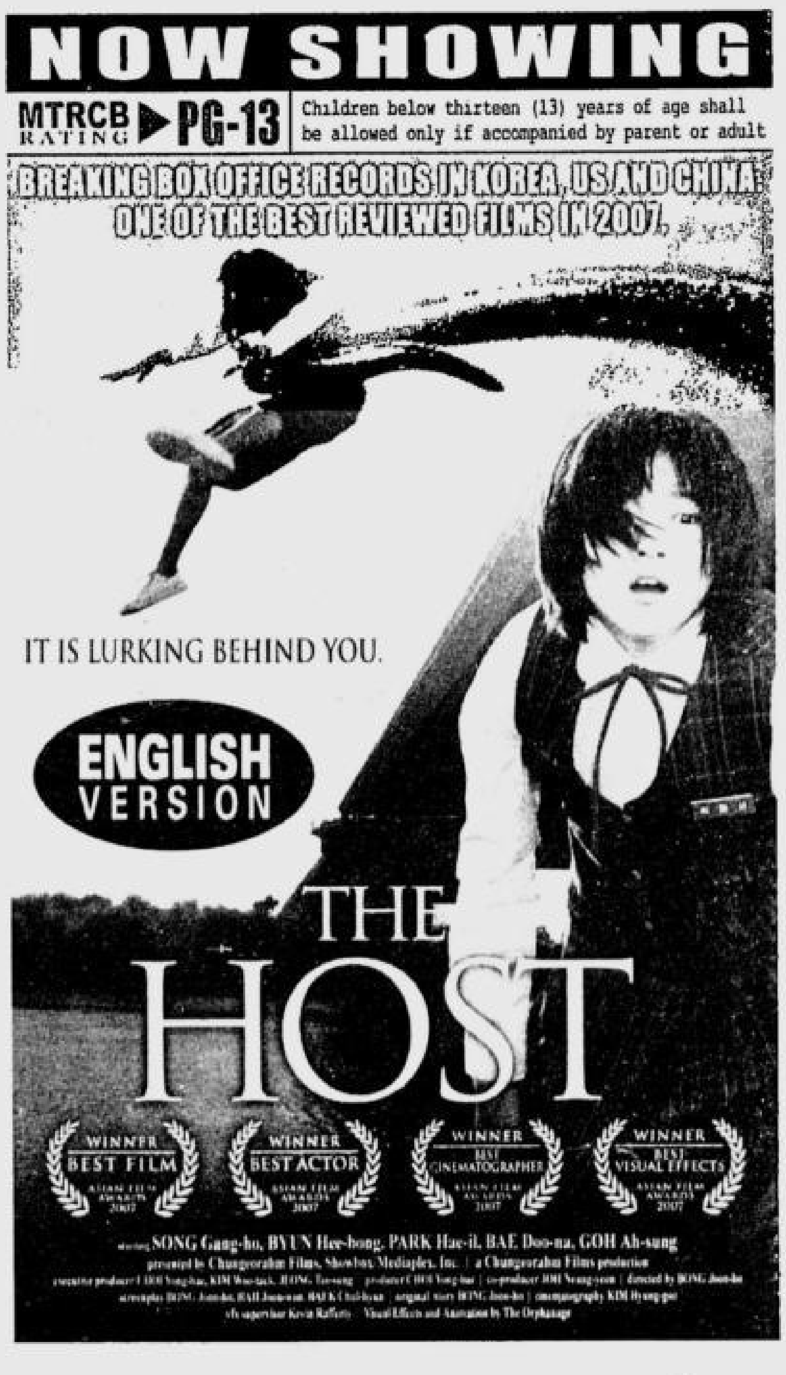
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4 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 ANG LALAKE SA PAROLA
12:40 2:30 4:20 6:10 8:00 9:50

6 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

7 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

8 BRATZ
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

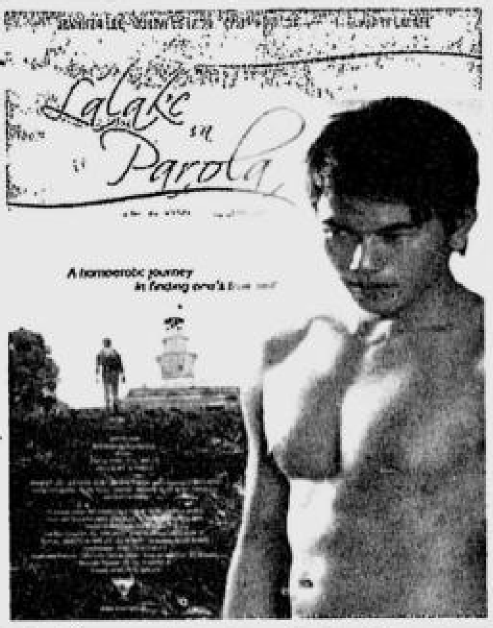
9 UNDERDOG
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

10 THE HOST
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

exclusive screening
at Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA

Starring:
Harry Laurel, Justin de Leon, Jennifer Lee, Sheree and Allan Paule

According to folklore, the fairy of the lighthouse shows herself every full moon to the man her heart desires. When this man succumbs to the fairy's charms and makes love to her, he will never long for any other woman. Woven into this legend is the story of Mateo (Harry Laurel), a lighthouse caretaker. Jerome (Justin de Leon), a gay man from the city finds himself deeply attracted to this simple yet seductive man upon meeting him. Soon, Mateo finds himself entering a subtle homoerotic journey with his newfound friend, while Suzet (Jennifer Lee), his girlfriend, continues to struggle for his love and attention. Will Mateo bravely cross the thin line between being straight and being gay in the midst of his conservative rural community?


Lalake sa Parola
A homoerotic journey in finding one's true self

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating: R18

GRADED B by the Cinema Evaluation Board

ERMITA

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:35 10:00

2 UNDERDOG 12:00 1:45 3:30
THE BRAVE ONE 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 BRATZ
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 THE HOST
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

7 ROGUE ASSASSIN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

Watch LIVE via SATELLITE
PACQUIAO vs BARRERA II

GALLERIA • MANILA • METRO EAST •

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday • 8:00AM
FREE hotdog, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased
TICKETS are available at the ticket booth
TICKET PRICE: P600

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 BRATZ
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

3 SHOOT 'EM UP
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

4 ROGUE ASSASSIN
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

7 UNDERDOG
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

8 THE BRAVE ONE
1:00 3:35 6:10 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 SHOOT 'EM UP
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 UNDERDOG
4 ROGUE ASSASSIN

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 BRATZ
1:00 3:25 5:50 8:15

2 SHOOT 'EM UP
1:10 3:35 6:00 8:25

3 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10

4 THE HOST
12:50 3:20 6:50 8:20

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(049) 837-0907

1 ROGUE ASSASSIN
2 DAYWATCH
3 DON'T LOOK BACK
4 DISTURBIA

LIPA

Ticket Price: P.90 (043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 UNDERDOG

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(046) 416-4332

1 NANCY DREW
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 PLANET TERROR

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
2 THE BRAVE ONE
3 ROGUE ASSASSIN
4 UNDERDOG

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95
(045) 892-2348

1 DAYWATCH
2 THE LAST LEGION
3 NANCY DREW
4 DISTURBIA

TARLAC

1 THE INVASION
2 A LOVE STORY
3 1408

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 875-1927

1 THE LAST LEGION
2 ROGUE ASSASSIN
3 NANCY DREW
4 DAYWATCH
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 DISTURBIA

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

1 SKINWALKERS
2 UNDERDOG
3 THE INVASION
4 THE KING of SCOTLAND
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 1408

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50
(033) 336-8070

1 SKINWALKERS
2 1408
3 DISTURBIA
4 UNDERDOG
5 WAITRESS
6 THE LAST LEGION

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 BRATZ
3 SHOOT THEM UP
4 ROGUE ASSASIN

PREMIERE
UNDERDOG
THE BRAVE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 ROGUE ASSASIN
2 SHOOT THEM UP
3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 THE BRAVE ONE

starmall

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 CHUCK & LARRY
4 HOST
5 PLEASE CALL

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604298, 8433994

1 CHUCK & LARRY
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 SHOOT THEM UP
4 I KNOW WHO KILL ME

THEATRES

1 DAY WATCH
2 UNDERDOG
3 1408

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 1408
2 SINKING JAPAN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 ROGUE ASSASIN
2 SHOOT THEM UP
3 I KNOW WHO KILL ME
4 THE BRAVE ONE
5 CHUCK & LARRY
6 UNDERDOG
7 1408
8 HOST
9 BRATZ
10 RUSH HOUR - 3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) THE BRAVE ONE
2 (DOLBY) SHOOT THEM UP
3 (DOLBY) CHUCK & LARRY
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 HOST
5 SHOOT THEM UP

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 RISE
3 BLADE OF GLORY
4 HAIR SPRAY

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 SHOOT THEM UP
2 ROGUE ASSASIN
3 CHUCK & LARRY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 DISTURBIA
2 DAY WATCH

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 DAY WATCH
2 NANCY DREW
3 DISTURBIA
4 LAST LEGION

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 THE INVASION
2 SKINWALKERS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 SHOOT THEM UP
2 CHUCK & LARRY
3 BRATZ
4 ROGUE ASSASIN / UNDER DOG

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 DAY WATCH
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111148

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408
3 SKINWALKERS

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 1408
2 SKINWALKERS
3 UNDERDOG
4 THE INVASION

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 SINKING JAPAN
2 UNDERDOG
3 SKINWALKERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 UNDERDOG
2 1408

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 THE INVASION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 THE BRAVE ONE
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 BRAZEN WOMAN
4 RISE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 SKINWALKERS
2 BAMOG SA BUKANG LIWAYWAY
3 DAY WATCH
4 SIGNOS
5 BLINDATING

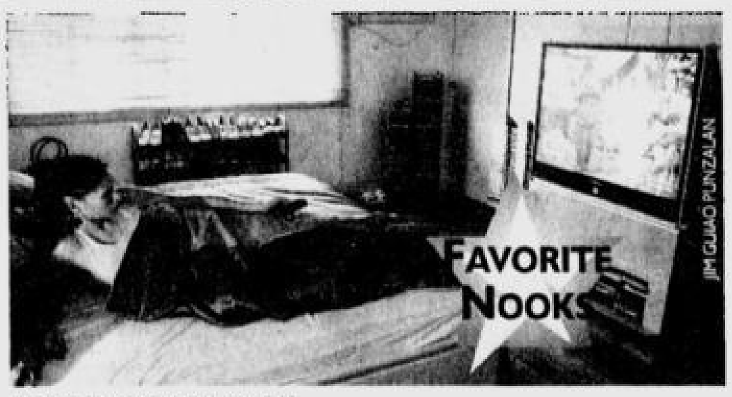
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 CHOPSUEY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 FOSTER CHILD
4 1408

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



JEN ROSENDAHL

HOW I LOVE my bedroom! I'm always here when I don't have work because it's here that I can truly relax. I admit that I can be lazy! I'd rather stay in bed and watch TV the whole day. My favorites are US shows like "Grey's Anatomy," "Heroes" and "Tyra." Everything I need is here: my DVD collection, shoes, clothes, makeup, computer. I also love surfing the Net in my room. My Rotweillers, Blade and Billy, usually stand guard at the foot of my bed.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ
BOOKS

INA FELEO

I ENJOYED reading "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden and "Lolita" by Vladimir Nabokov. The latest book I've read is "Memoirs of My Melancholy Whores" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Among his works, I like this best. *Marinel R. Cruz*

MTRCB RATING ▶ G GENERAL AUDIENCE | ALL AGES ADMITTED

NOW SHOWING

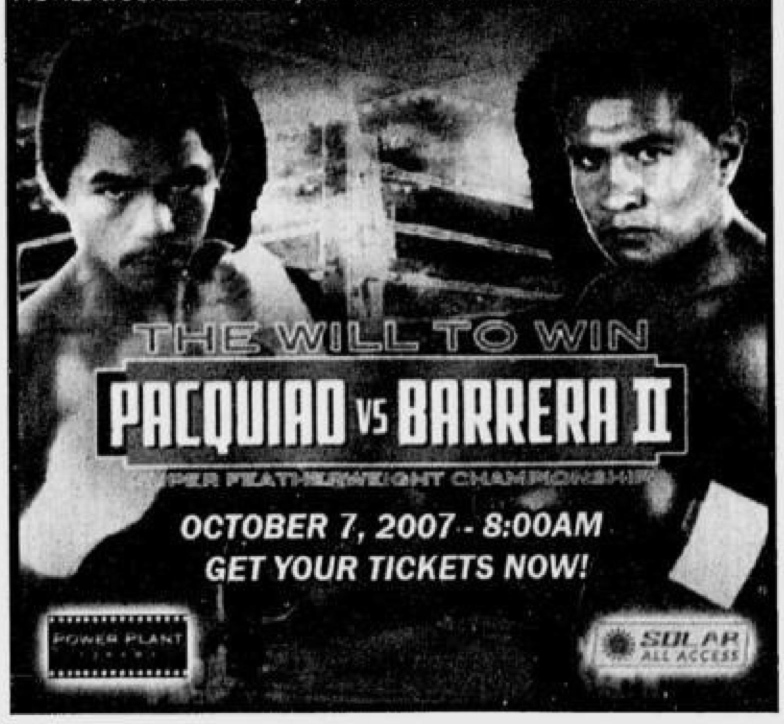
High school is about to get a makeover.

bratz
For Fashion.
For Friendship.
For Real.
Cloe
Yasmin
UNIVERSAL

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

UNDERDOG G 12:10,2:10,4:10,6:10	BRATZ G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SHOOT' EM UP R13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20
THE BRAVE ONE R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	ROUGE ASSASSIN R13 1:50,4:00,6:10, 8:20,10:30	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY - R13 12:20,2:50,5:20, 7:50,10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



OCTOBER 7, 2007 - 8:00AM
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

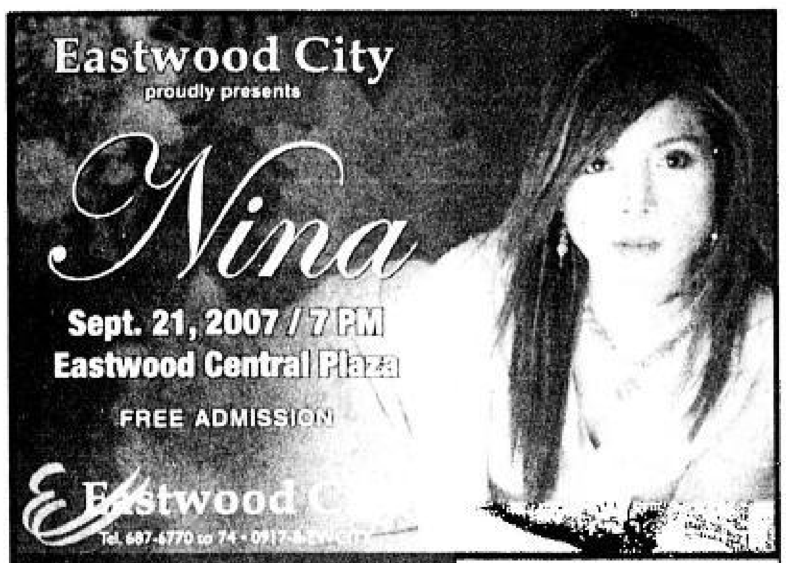
Emmy awards on Sept. 16 in Hollywood

JAIME PRESSLY REUTERS

ELLEN DeGeneres, left, and partner Portia de Rossi REUTERS

GLENN CLOSE REUTERS

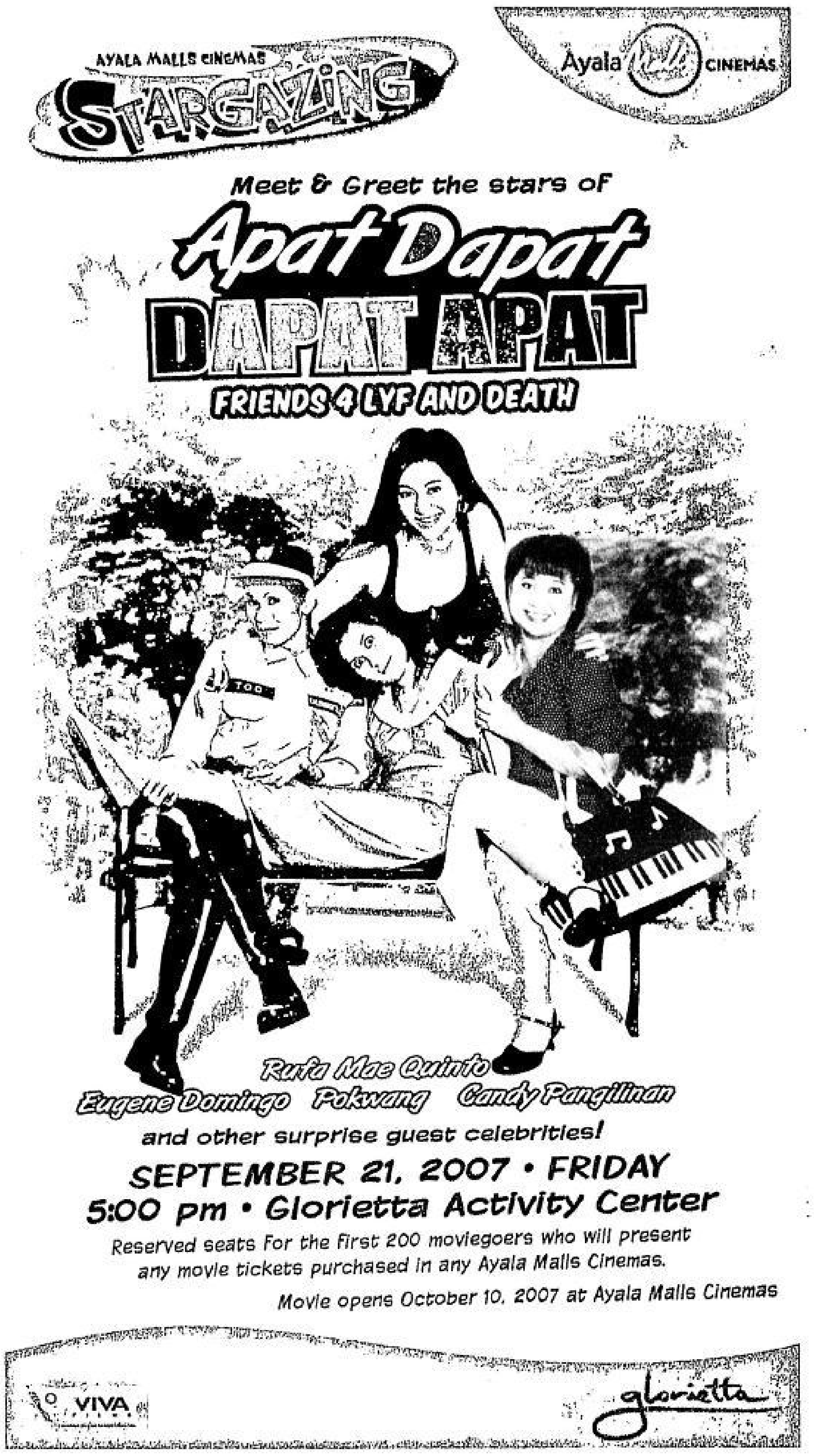
ANNA PAQUIN REUTERS


Eastwood City
proudly presents
Nina
Sept. 21, 2007 / 7 PM
Eastwood Central Plaza
FREE ADMISSION
Eastwood City
Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

PACQUIAO VS BARRERA II
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	SHOOT 'EM UP	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40; 11:00	R-13
2	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY	12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05	R-13
3	BRATZ	3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40	G
4	UNDERDOG	2:25, 4:25	G
4	WAR: ROGUE ASSASSIN	8:05, 10:40	R-13


AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
STARGAZING
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
Meet & Greet the stars of
Apat Dapat DAPAT APAT
FRIENDS 4 LYF AND DEATH
Rufa Mae Quinto
Eugene Domingo Pokwang Candy Pangilinan
and other surprise guest celebrities!
SEPTEMBER 21, 2007 • FRIDAY
5:00 pm • Glorietta Activity Center
Reserved seats for the first 200 moviegoers who will present any movie tickets purchased in any Ayala Malls Cinemas.
Movie opens October 10, 2007 at Ayala Malls Cinemas
VIVA
glorietta

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

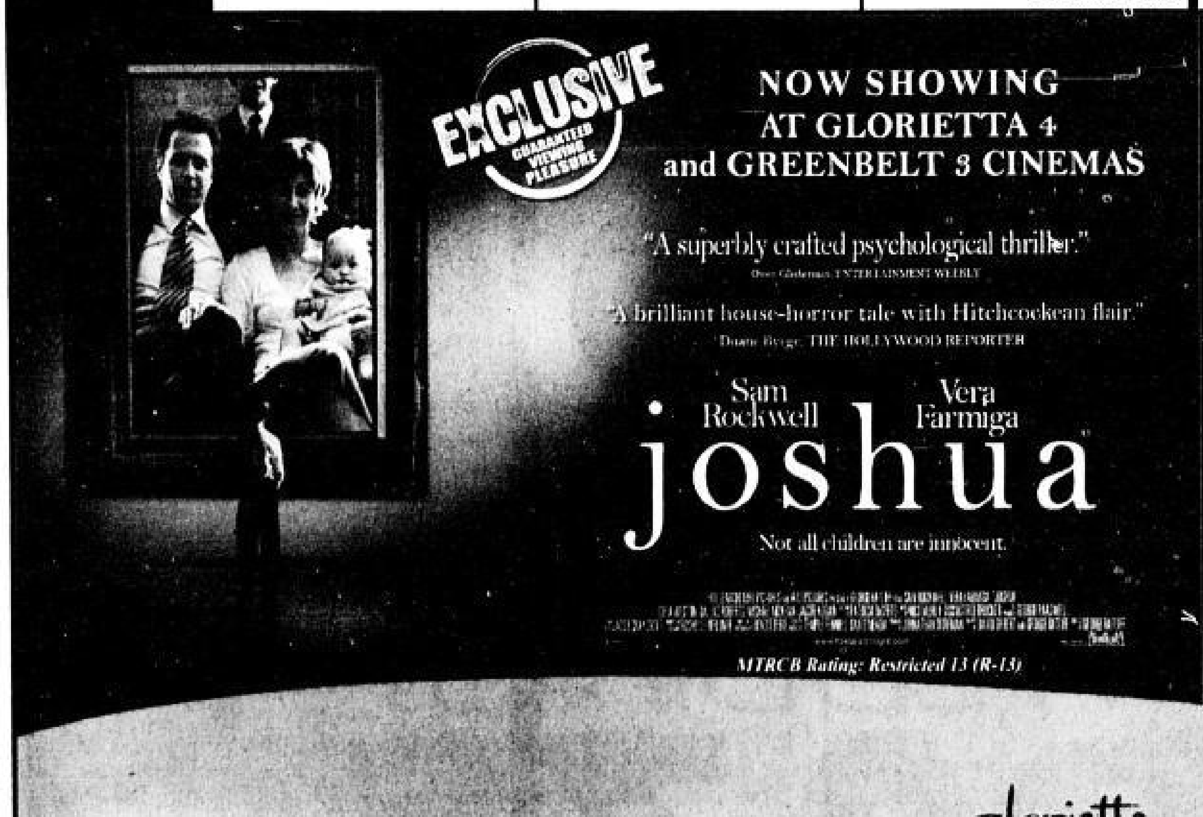
Mall	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	HOST	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	ROGUE ASSASIN	I KNOW WHO KILLED ME			
GLORIETTA 4	BRATZ	ROGUE ASSASIN	THX SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	JOSHUA	UNDERDOG	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	THE BRAVE ONE
GREENBELT 1	SHOOT THEM UP	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY					
GREENBELT 3	THX SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS	JOSHUA GUARANTEED SEATS	ROGUE ASSASIN GUARANTEED SEATS	BRATZ GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	SHOOT THEM UP	BRATZ	THE BRAVE ONE	ROGUE ASSASIN		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	NANCY DREW	ROGUE ASSASIN	THE LAST LEGION			
MARKET! MARKET!	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY	HOST	ROGUE ASSASIN	BRATZ	SHOOT THEM UP		
TRINOMA	ROGUE ASSASIN	HOST	BRATZ GUARANTEED SEATS	SHOOT THEM UP GUARANTEED SEATS	UNDERDOG	THE BRAVE ONE	THX I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY GUARANTEED SEATS

TRINOMA
- THX Certified
- All-Digital Sound
- All-Stadium Seating
- Computerized Ticketing System
- Recliner Seats

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Mall	Event
glorietta	Martin Nievera's Album Launch September 19, 2007; 6 PM at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek Presents: Collection of Kate Torralba September 12 to 23, 2007 at Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Philippine Robotics September 17 to 19, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Health & Beauty Outlet Sale September 17 to 20, 2007 at the Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Pioneers of Philippine Art: Transnationalism in the Late 19th - 20th century June 15, 2007 to January 6, 2008 at the 3rd Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2


EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4 and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER
Sam Rockwell Vera Farmiga
joshua
Not all children are innocent.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Catch American Idol finalist Elliott Yamin in a live concert at the Ayala Malls!

TriNoma
Activity Center
September 21
7:00pm

Glorietta
Activity Center
September 22
7:00pm

Market! Market!
Activity Center
September 23
6:00pm

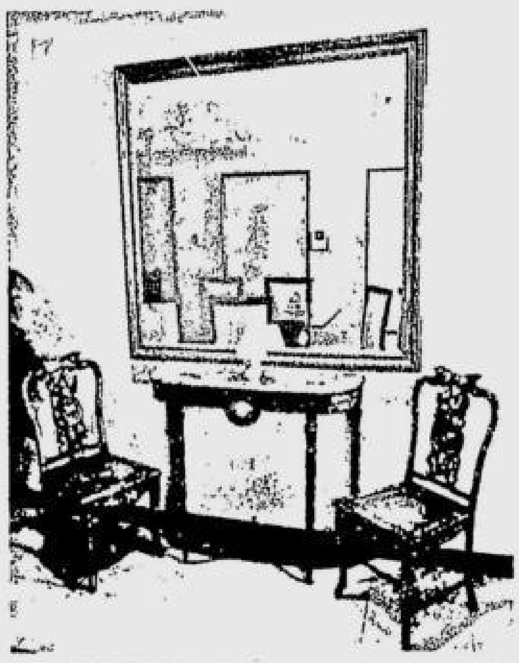
Ayala Center Cebu
On Stage
September 26
6:00pm

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
September 28
6:30pm

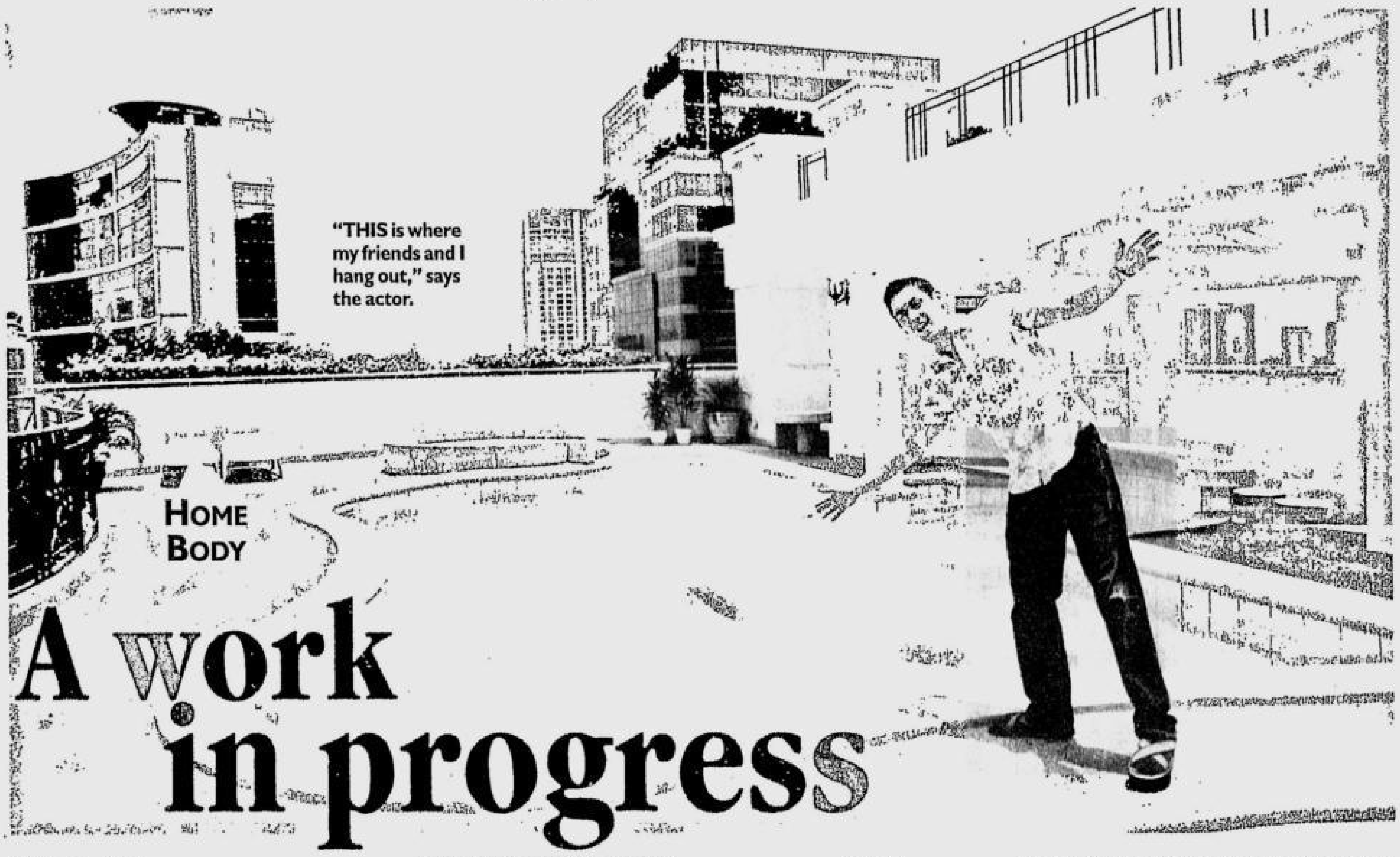
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

THIS ANTIQUE walnut cabinet was originally displayed in the Kazemis' Persian rug showroom.

AN AUTHENTIC opium pipe from Afghanistan.



THE CONSOLE and mirror are from Iran. "We were told to never sit on them," Kian says of the chairs with ornate design and ivory inlay.



"**THIS** is where my friends and I hang out," says the actor.

HOME BODY

A work in progress

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Romy Homillada

AFTER LIVING IN A FLOOD-PRONE AREA in Makati City for nine years, the family of "Pinoy Big Brother Season 2" housemate Kian Kazemi (with dad, mom and three siblings) moved to the 27th floor of a posh condominium.

Kian recalled that the floods they contended with had endangered not only their possessions but, more importantly, their health and safety.

"I remembered that, twice, the floods went up so high, we carried all the furniture up to the second floor," Kian told Living Stars in a visit to his new home, also in Makati City.

A hotel and restaurant management graduate, Kian, 21, said the family moved to the condo unit—one of the four biggest in the building—only four years ago. His father Al, an interior designer, described the new dwelling as "a work in progress." In fact, at the end of the interview, Al arrived with three framed pictures that he intended to mount on the dining room wall.

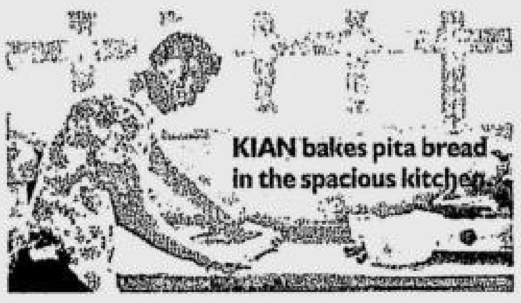
"Dad is the expert," the 21-year-old ABS-CBN talent said. "Together with mom (Charito), he reinvented this place, made it more spacious. I gave some suggestions, too. The model unit was so bland and plain-looking."

Al, an Iranian national, is a supplier of authentic Persian rugs. Which explains the exquisite carpets in the living and dining areas. The Kazemis run a nearby restaurant called Persia Grill. During our visit, the smell of freshly baked pita wafted from the spacious kitchen.

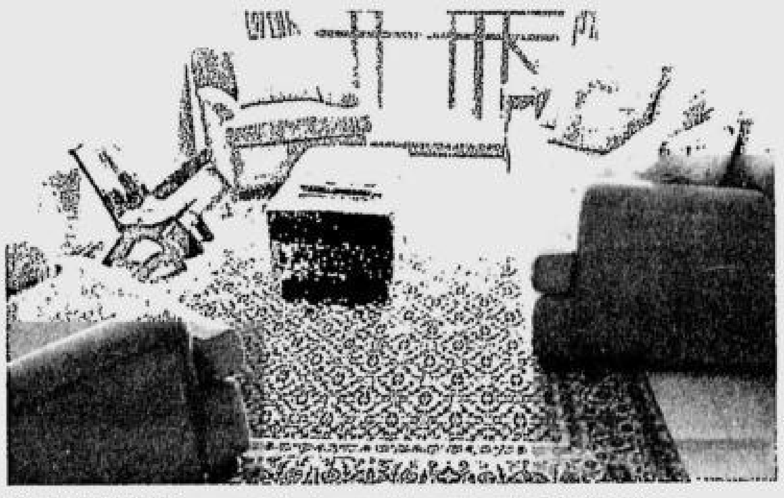
"We picked this place because of the fantastic view of the Makati skyline," Kian said. "It also puts a premium on privacy—the stairs just outside our door leads straight to the penthouse, where the gym and the swimming pool are. There is also a private driveway for the exclusive use of the residents and their guests."

But now that he's done with school and has started working, Kian said his plan is to eventually get a bigger place for his family.

KIAN clowns around with his dad Al's antique ceremonial wedding sword made of silver, brass and ivory.



KIAN bakes pita bread in the spacious kitchen.



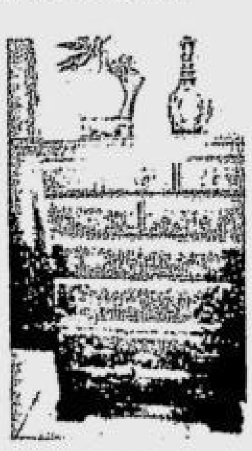
THE KAZEMIS appreciate the quality authentic Persian rugs, whether for selling, or for enjoyment in their own home.

OPENS SEPT. 26
We have witnessed the BEGINNING...
We have seen the APOCALYPSE...
Now we face EXTINCTION.
MILLA JOVOVICH
RESIDENT EVIL: EXTINCTION

KATIE AND ANDERSON ARE GETTING MARRIED...
THEY JUST MET A FEW MINUTES AGO
OPENS OCT. 3
JASON BIGGS ISLA FISHER
WEDDING DAZE

MADONNA and Child figurine made from ash. Kian's mom, Charito, got this as a birthday gift.

MOST days after work, Kian goes straight to the penthouse gym.



ANTIQUE wooden cabinet from China.